

Research Article

# Home and Spread of Indo-European Tribes in the Light of Name Research

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## Abstract

Today, large parts of Europe are populated by speakers of Indo-European languages. People have long wondered where they came from, where their original home was. Archeology has long been trusted to provide a solution to the problem. This has now been abandoned. Today there is a great deal of trust in the results of genetic research, which can certainly contribute to important findings. However, one should not forget an important aspect: when one looks for the speakers of Indo-European languages, one is not looking for specific material finds (devices, weapons, etc.) or for the carriers of certain genetic peculiarities, but for the speakers of languages. Their homeland and distribution can only be determined using linguistic methods. The languages alone are crucial. And at this point a scientific discipline that is based on languages comes into view: it is place name research. Place and river names are firmly anchored in the original region. They often pass on their names to changing populations and are therefore undoubtedly the most important witnesses to the history of peoples and languages. And another scientific discipline must be included: agricultural science, because early settlements were based on good and productive soils that enabled continuous settlement. With the help of geographical names and the distribution of Europe's good soils, the study determines the original settlements of the Slavs on the northern slope of the Carpathians, the Germanic tribes north of the Harz and those of the Celts on the western edge of the Carpathians. River names that can be assigned to Old European, i.e. Indo-European, hydronymy also show that old ones come from almost all settlement areas. There is evidence of connections to the Baltics and the Baltic languages. The Baltics are therefore the center of Indo-European names and there is no reason not to consider them as the starting area and home of Indo-European expansions. A homeland outside of Old European hydronymy, be it in southern Russia or in Asia Minor or in the Caucasus, as is often assumed today, especially on the basis of genetic studies, is excluded.

## Keywords

Indo-Europeans, River Names, Slavs, Germanic Peoples, Celts, Balts, Old European Hydronymy, Original Homeland

## 1. Introduction: Importance of Place Name Research

If you ask about the homeland and spread of Indo-European tribes, you are always asking about settlement and migration movements. Both settlement and migration

take place on the ground, on the earth. According to the general definition, a settlement is a place where people live together, usually in buildings or building-like facilities, for

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the purpose of living and working. When people live together in appropriate facilities, the need to orient themselves in the environment forces them to name it. Naming fulfills a functional aspect and there are notable studies, such as those by H. M. Müller and H. Kutas [42], which conclude that the origins of *propria* are older than those of language.

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and Jacob Grimm also recognized this from a different perspective early on. From a more general perspective, J. Grimm [24] (S. 5) says: "There is a more living testimony to the peoples than bones, weapons and graves, and that is their languages," and elsewhere: "Without proper names, in entire early centuries, every source of the German language has dried up, and the oldest evidence that we have for it is based precisely in them... That is precisely why their exploration spreads light about the language, customs and history of our ancestors" [25] (S. 297). And specifically comments on the names of the waters G. W. Leibniz [37] (S. 264): "Et je dis en passant que les noms de rivières, étant ordinairement venus de la plume le vieux langage et les anciens habitants, c'est pourquoy ils meritoient une recherche particulière" (And I say in passing that the names of rivers, having usually come from the old language and the ancient inhabitants, this is why they deserve a particular research).

If one asks about the homeland and separation of the Indo-European languages, in my opinion it is essential to take geographical names into account. Above all, it is the following points that make the names particularly important for questions about early settlements and migrations:

- 1) Place names only arise through longer settlements. In general, it is not a momentary event or a special event that leads to the determination of the name, but rather a gradually growing, silently developing and only slowly emerging agreement between the speakers of a dialect (namely the one who was alive in the place at the time the name was created). This has several consequences.
- 2) Short-term conquest and occupation of a country do not lead to the formation of place names from the language of the conquerors and occupiers. Conquering or nomadic peoples such as the Huns and Mongols very rarely leave behind names and almost never the names of water bodies.
- 3) This even applies to the Roman occupation and settlement of southern and western Germany. A number of place names such as *Cologne* and *Koblenz* (*Confluentes*) can be explained from Latin, but Latin water names are rarely found.
- 4) Water names are long-lasting and tough. Above all, a phenomenon can be observed with them that is of utmost importance for the question of which peoples once lived in a certain area: when there is a change in population, they do not usually disappear, but are changed by the language of the new settlers adapted to the new idiom. They often survive with extraordinary

tenacity, although it is significant that it is mostly the people who settled in rural areas who pass on the names.

- 5) Due to their longevity, geographical names often contain appellatives that have long since disappeared from living languages. This is a phenomenon that is known from the history of all languages, but compared to appellatives, evidence in names offers decisive advantages because it allows the original area of distribution of a word to be determined much more precisely.
- 6) It can be assumed that water names also emerged at the time of the emergence of Indo-European and during the period of development and expansion. Tracking these down is a task of Indo-European studies.

Another task of Indo-European studies is, as is well known, the attempt to determine a linguistically historically convincing reconstruction of an Indo-European basis by comparing corresponding words, forms and syntagms of individual Indo-European languages. One starts - and this is not possible otherwise - from the individual Indo-European languages.

This is exactly the route you have to take if you want to search for the presumably oldest settlement areas of Indo-European tribes: starting from a look into the river name layers of individual Indo-European languages, you have to try to find the way from there to the earlier name layers. Since geographical names can also be evaluated as evidence of migration Udolph [85], this procedure certainly promises to lead to progress. I'll start with Slavic and then take a look at Germanic, Baltic and Celtic.

## 2. Spread of Individual Indo-European Languages in the Light of Names

### a.) The Slavic

*Efforts to use geographical names to gain more information about the oldest settlement areas of the Slavs are still essentially based on Max Vasmer's "exclusion method". He succeeded in delimiting the originally Slavic area by separating out all territories in which a Ugric, Iranian or Baltic substratum can be found in place names (Vasmer [95] (S. 101-202, 203-249, 251-534), later supplemented by Toporov and Trubačev [60] and Trubačev [62]. Using this exclusion method, which is still valid today, M. Vasmer was able to show that Slavic probably developed in the area south of the Pripyt and west of the Dnieper.*

The decisive progress that goes beyond M. Vasmer's method is due to the research of H. Krahe, although he had hardly dealt with Slavic name material. But he recognized what the basic principles of naming river names lie - and this insight applies not only to the pre-individual language names that H. Krahe prefers to treat, but also to the names of rivers in general and in all languages: H. Krahe [32] (S. 34) wrote: "With regard to semasiology and etymology, the orig-

inal and undoubtedly The oldest layer of names consists of so-called 'water words', i.e. names for '(flowing) water', 'source', 'stream', 'river' (or 'flow'), '(water) run' (or 'to run') and the like, with countless finer and subtlest shades of meaning, such as were available to early man in his precise observation of nature...". And in addition to this, H. Krahe says on the question of how one can determine the former residences of a people in more detail: "For where place names of a certain language are found in large numbers, the language in question must also have been spoken, and relatives must have been spoken of the people who spoke this language" [32] (S. 25).



**Figure 1.** Russia in the last centuries B. C. (Source: Vasmer [95, 96]).

If you apply these ideas to the question of the homeland and expansion of the Slavic tribes, you will get clear and, in my opinion, unambiguous answers. I have already published the following statements in several places [91-93], so in the following I only offer a selection of extensive collections and mappings.

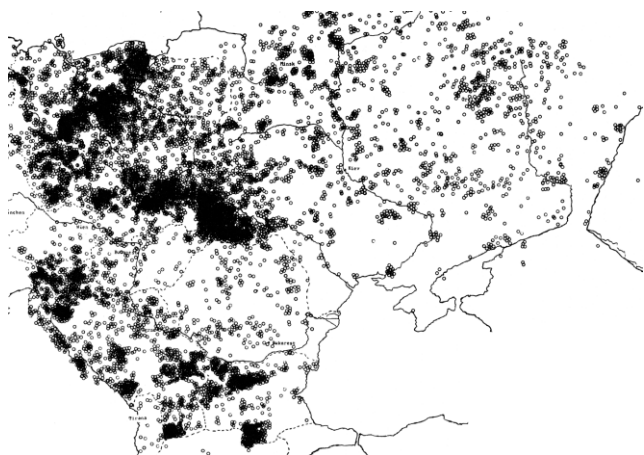
First, a comment on the question of whether something can be learned about the homeland and spread of the Slavs from an archaeological perspective. This problem is related to another question, namely the extent to which one can speak of Slavic tribes for the time around the birth of Christ. How can you recognize them or how do you define "Slavs" or "Slavic" for this time? If I have understood Brather's [10] study correctly, then from an archaeological point of view it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify a tribe or an ethnic group with the help of material culture or to find or

describe their residences and migrations. And from the perspective of linguistics, one must also remember that it is actually impossible to describe where Slavic tribes settled before the turn of the century. This is because before the birth of Christ there was no language that could be described as "Slavic". The "Slavic", i.e. the common linguistic features of a language community that emerged from a presumably Indo-European (or Indo-European) dialect area, had to first emerge. This was a process that certainly lasted several centuries. Therefore, you should try with great skepticism attempts to determine something about a people from an archaeological perspective, with the help of genetic research, folklore or historical science that can ultimately only be defined with the help of language. In short: from my point of view, the question of the homeland and expansion of Slavic tribes can only be fruitfully approached by taking linguistically, linguistic and, above all, onomastic arguments into account. In other words: the homeland of Slavic tribes is to be found where, in a dialect area of Indo-European speakers, linguistic similarities that were unique to that dialect area developed in a process that lasted centuries. One should follow an old opinion of M. Vasmer [95] (reprint from 1930!), who was convinced that "the Slavic original homeland question should be solved primarily... through loanword and place name research and as completely as possible consideration of all old historical and geographical sources [can be supported]".

Back to H. Krahe's "water words" from a Slavic perspective. How can one work out from the former and current Slavic settlement area, which covered or covers a large territory, the area that could be the starting point of the Slavic expansion, the size of which even amazed the Byzantine historians? The great expansion of the Slavs observed by experts and contemporaries (according to a Byzantine source, 100,000 Slavs are said to have invaded Thrace and Illyria in 577 AD) must have started somewhere. This can only have happened north of the Carpathians, i.e. in an area that was not readily known to the ancient sources.

A summary mapping of four dozen Slavic water words and their occurrence in water, place and field names (figure 2) makes it clear that the area can be delimited quite well: since the area south of the Carpathians and Beskids is excluded, according to the consensus view the clusters in Ukraine and Poland are of particular importance. On the thesis of O. N. Trubačev [63], according to which Pannonia is also a possibility, see Udolph [68].

There is a widespread opinion that Slavic hydronymy shows a certain uniformity. Since the construction and formation of Slavic water names developed according to the same criteria as in the vocabulary, this is entirely understandable, because in these languages derivation is predominant, i.e. formation with suffixes. The following elements are widespread in the names of bodies of water (for details see [65] (S. 539-599).

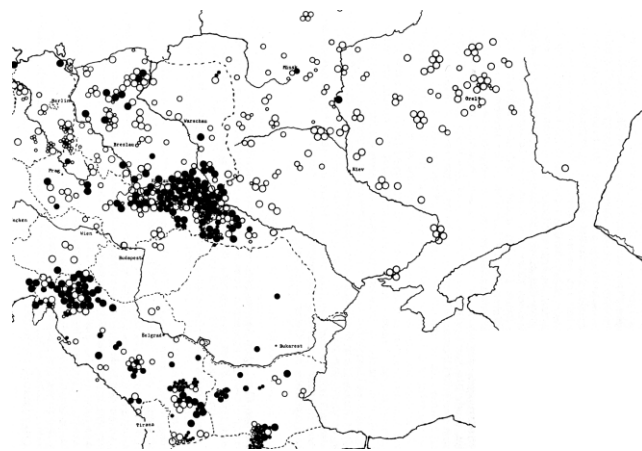


**Figure 2.** Synoptic summary of 37 distribution maps of Slavic water words (Source: Udolph 1979: 322, map 40).

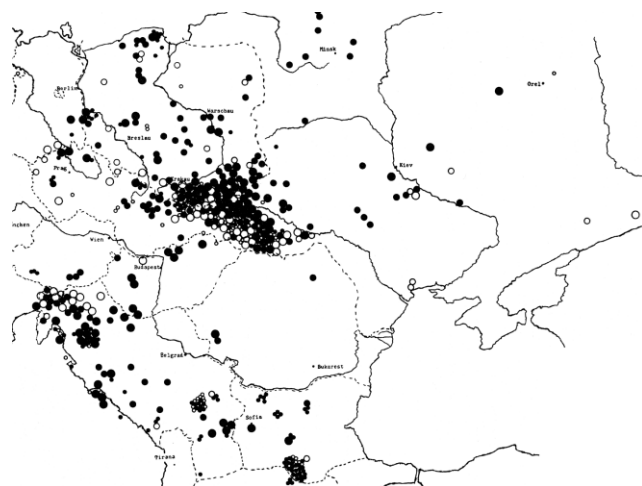
Formations with *\*(j)-ač-*, expanded with the help of *-ov-* or *-in-*, cf. *Vod-ač*, *Il-ača*, *Gnjil-ov-ača*, *Il-in-jača*; *\*(j)ak*, also as *-bn-ak-*, *-in-ak-* and others, is found, for example, in *Solotvin-ak*, *Gnil-jak*, *Bagn-iak*, *Glin-iak*, *Vod-n-jak*; *-at-*, often expanded as *ov-at-*, e.g. in *Il-ov-at*, *Sychl-ov-at*, *Hlin-ov-ata*; Typical of Slavic hydronymy is *-ica*, often expanded as *-av-ica*, *-ov-ica*, *-in-ica*, *-bšk-ica*, there are numerous formations with *-(b)n-ica*, cf. *Bar-ica*, *Glin-ica*, *Kal-ica*, *Vod-ica*, *Vir-ica*, *Topol-ov-ica*, *Blat-bn-ica*, *Dubr-ov-n-ica*, *Lis-n-ica*, *Izvor-st-ica*; Relatively common is also *-ik-*, sometimes extended as *-(b)n-ik-*, *-ov-ik-*, e.g. in *Brn-ik*, *Bah-n-ik*, *Brus-n-ik*, *Glin-ik*, *Il-n-ik*, *Jam-n-ik*, *Lip-n-ik*, *Il-ov-ik*; Mostly of adjectival origin are formations with *-in-*, *-ina-*, *-ino-*, for example in *Berlin*, *Schwerin*, *Genthin*, which are also found, for example, in the names of bodies of water: *Ozer-in*, *Bolot-in*, *Vod-in-a*, *Bar-n-in*, *Bab-in-a*, *Dobr-in*, *Radot-in-a*, *Slatina*, with *-ev-* and *-ov-* expanded into *Bobr-ov-a*, *Buk-ov-a*, *Dub-ov-a*, *Kalin-ov-a*, *Lip-ov-a*, *Vugr-in-ov-o*, among others; Water names with *-isk-* are found almost exclusively in West Slavic: *Wodz-isk-a*, *Bagn-isk-a*, *Zdro-isk-o*, otherwise *\*-iskio* predominates, East Slavic as *-išč-*, otherwise also appearing as *-išt-*: *Ples-izscze*, *Zleb-išče*, *Rič-išče*, *Gnój-išča*, *Bar-ište*, *Lokv-išta*; *-ev-/ov-* is also occasionally encountered as a toponymic word formation, e.g. in *Duna-ev*, *Il-ów*, *Borl-ov*, *Sopot-ov-o*, *Bagn-iew-o* and others; *\*-bc-* is very common, sometimes extended with *-in-*, *-ov-*, *av-* and other elements, cf. *Izvor-ec*, *Strumien-iec*, *Jezer-ca*, *Blat-ce*, *Bar-in-ec*, *Mor-in-cy*, *Il-ov-in-ce*, *Hlin-ov-ec*, *Strug-ov-ec*, *Brnj-av-ac*; The same applies to *-bk-/bk-*, cf. *Potocz-ek*, *Vir-ok*, *Dunaj-ek*, *Ozer-ko*, *Bagien-ko*, *Bolot-ki*, *Vod-n-ev-ka*, *Il-av-ka*, *Ozer-ov-ka*, *Bar-ov-ka*, *Sigl-in-ka*, *Zvor-yn-ky*, *Hnoj-en-ki*, *Klucz-ew-at-ka*, *Gnil-ič-koe*, *Kal-n-ic-ki*, *Reč-ul-ka*; Adjectival formations with *\*-bn-*, *-na*, *-no* are also common: *Bar-na*, *Brez-na*, *Les-na*, *Sol-na*, *Sopot-na*, *Svib-no*, *Slatin-ny*, *Rzecz-ny*, *Hnój-ny*, *Il-na*, *Glin-na*, *Kal-ne*, *Zdroj-no*.

If you look for formations with these elements in the Slavic body of water names, you will see different distributions in the water words formed with them and often and generally

known in the Slavic languages, but centers also form that require interpretation. Here are some examples:



**Figure 3.** Spread of place names containing Slavic *reka* 'river'. Black filled circles immediate formations; white circles suffixed formations; The size of the symbols is staggered according to water, place and field names (Source: Udolph 1979: 257, map 26).



**Figure 4.** Spread of place names containing Slavic *potok* 'stream'; black filled circles immediate formations; white circles suffixed formations; in the size of the symbols, staggered according to water, place and field names (Source: Udolph 1979: 251, map 25).

In order to filter out older types from the abundance of Slavic water names, several criteria can be identified that are characteristic of old and older formations, as has been recognized in recent years [71, 72].

- (1) They contain ancient suffixes that are no longer productive today.
- (2) They are of greater antiquity if they are derived from appellatives that are unproductive today.
- (3) They are based on different ablaut phenomena, but their areas partially overlap.
- (4) They are derived from pre-Slavic, i.e. Old European, hydronyms with Slavic suffixes.

Based on the current distribution of Slavic languages and the distribution maps of Slavic water names shown above (figures 2-4), parts of Russia and Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland are particularly interesting.

Further materials offered below, including mapping, for the individual points.

(1) The names contain ancient suffixes that are no longer productive today. First of all, the typical hydronymic suffix -ava, -awa should be mentioned here, which gives us, for example, *Vir-ava*, *Vod-ava*, *Il-ava*, *Glin-iawa*, *Breg-ava*, *Ljut-ava*, *Mor-ava*, *Orl-java* and encountered other names. It is probably the most typical ancient Slavic suffix in hydronymy and has clear connections to pre-single language, Indo-European naming (*Lupawa*, *Morava-March-Moravia*, *Orava*, *Widawa*). Occasionally a safe separation is not possible (for the details of the material collection see 65: 555-558).

A mapping of these names (see figure 5, below) shows that the distribution of these old names mainly covers the area north of the Carpathians, exactly the territory that was already noticed by *potok*, *reka* (figures 2, 3).

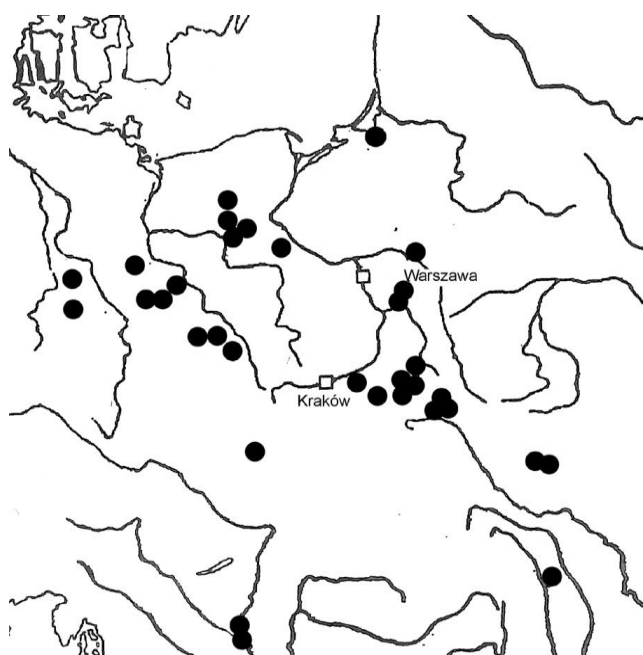


Figure 5. Spread with the suffix -ava formed Slavic water names (Source: Udolph 1997: 51, map 3).

Ancient Slavic words and names are so-called -*ŭ*-stems, which usually appear as *ev-* or *-va* (not as *-ava*). From the inventory discussed in detail elsewhere [65] (S. 35-47), the only names of mention here are: *Bagva*, *Mokva*, *Goltwa*, *Mostva*, *Polkva*, *Branew/Brnew*, *Mała Pądew/Malapane*. It should be mentioned that these names can often be connected to Slavic words, but some of them cannot, i.e. they cannot be connected to the Slavic vocabulary. This means that some of them are likely to be older. This is also supported by the fact that in the Baltic body of water names there are for-

mations with very similar suffixes such as *-uv-*, *iu-* and *-(i)uvè*, *-(i)uvis*; here only briefly to mention are: *Daug-uva*, *Lank-uvà*, *Alg-uvà*, *Áun-uva*, *Gárd-uva*, *Lat-uvà*, *Mit-uva*, *Ring-uvà*, *Týt-uva*, *Vad-uvà*, *Várd-uva*, *Gil-ùvè*, *Audr-uvis*, *Med-uvis*, *Dit-uva*.

The spread of names (the Baltic ones remained away) shows (Figure 6) that once again a band stretching from west to east extends from central Poland through southeastern Poland to the area east of Kiev, although the Carpathians are not exceeded to the south.

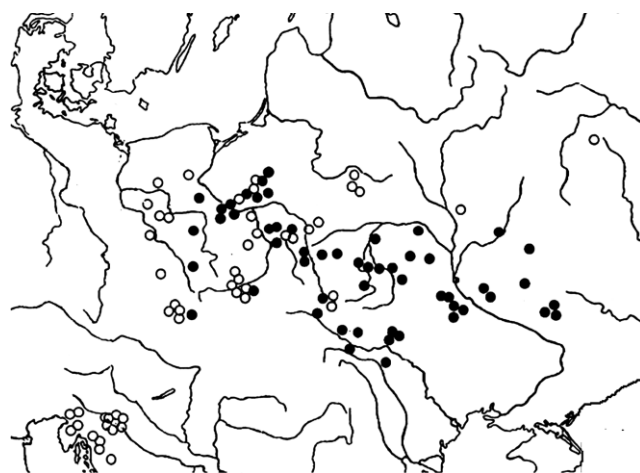


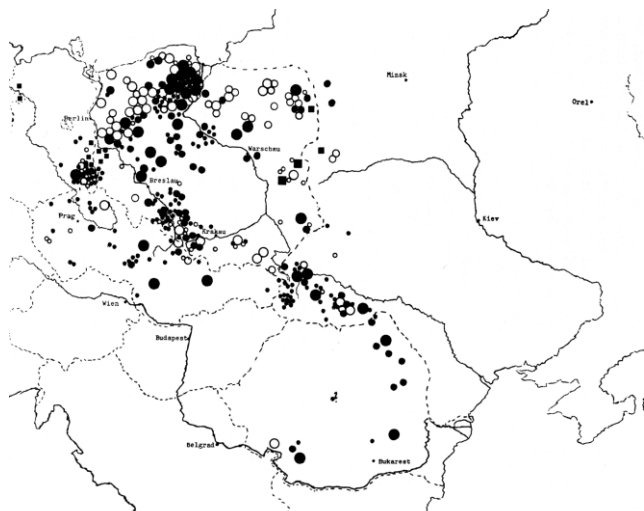
Figure 6. Spread of Slavic water and place names; • = so-called (ancient) -*ŭ*-tribes in geographical names; ○ = Slavic Ponikla, Ponikva, Ponikiew etc. 'disappearing, underground river'.

In the map are included the names derived from Slavic *ponik*, *ponikva* "disappearing river, underground water-course" (detailed in [46] (S. 239-245), which also reflect an -*ŭ*-tribe, but are of much more recent origin. This is also documented by the mapping, because the focus is on the ancient -*ŭ*-formations (some of which are etymologically transparent), while *ponik(va)* is clearly evident in areas reached by Slavs more recently, such as Slovenia (here it is a term for the karst landscape), Middle and Western Poland and Belarus can be found. The Northern Carpathian region once again turns out to be an ancient Slavic settlement area.

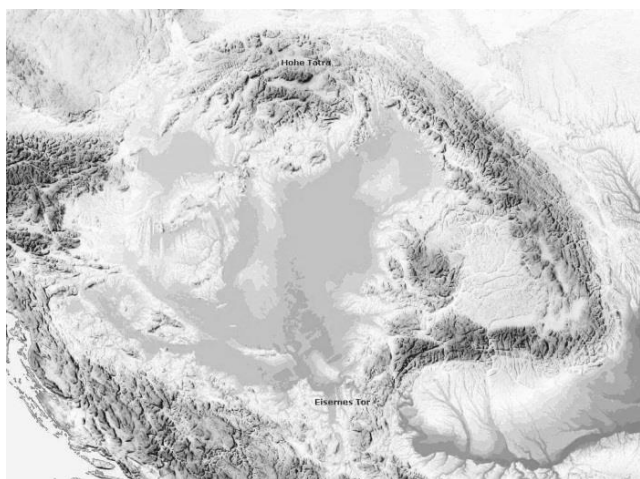
(2) Slavic water names are more ancient if they are derived from appellatives that are unproductive today. In other words, this means that the language from which the corresponding water names were created must still have possessed the word hidden in the names. So these are undoubtedly older Slavic names. From the numerous cases available, a few have been selected.

What is impressive here is the spread of names such as *Bagno*, *Bahenec*, *Bagienice*, *Bagienek*, as well as the surname *Baginski*, which can also be found in Germany, which can be combined with Ukrainian *bahno*, Polish *bagno* "swamp, moor, morass", etc. The word has been missing from South Slavic for a long time; it seems to have disap-

peared from this area at an early stage (for details, the vocabulary in the Slavic languages and the names derived from them, see [65] (S. 324-336). As figure 7 shows, corresponding names can be found primarily in the West Slavic region.



**Figure 7.** Distribution of place names that contain Slavic *bagnō* “morass, swamp”; Black filled circles = immediate formations; white circles = suffixed formations; The size of the symbols is staggered according to the name of the water, place and field (Source: Udolph 1979: 334, map 42).



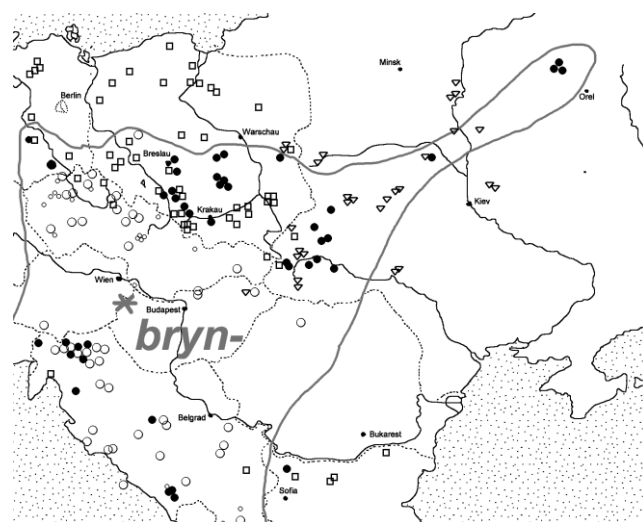
**Figure 8.** Course of the Carpathians.

All the more remarkable is the radiation to the southeast, clearly based on the northern and eastern slopes of the Carpathians (see Figure 8), until then, approximately in today's southern Romania, the word disappears from the active vocabulary and the last names formed with it at the Iron Gate have left their mark. This expansion clearly shows one of the routes of entry of the later southern Slavs into the Balkans.

Another important observation that is crucial to the question of the ancient residences of Slavic tribes has to do with

the fact that the Slavic language area is now separated by Austria, Hungary and Romania: for centuries there has been no separation between West and East Slavs in the north and the South Slavs in the south close contacts more. The separation between the two Slavic residential areas naturally led to the development of South Slavic peculiarities that remained unknown to the Slavic languages north of the Carpathians. There are cases in which this discrepancy in vocabulary is clearly visible, but the stock of names shows a different picture.

There are appellatives, including water words, that are unique to South Slavic, but - and this is the crucial point - also appear in names north of the Carpathians. Before resorting to an interpretation of this phenomenon, The relevant material is available here.



**Figure 9.** Spread of Slavic names containing *br̃n-* < *\*br̃n-* and *bryn-* < *br̃n-* “swamp, morass, mud”). The symbols show the different developments in today's Slavic languages (*brn-*, *brin-*, *bron-*, *bryn-*), staggered in the size of the symbols according to water, place and field names. The border outlines the area in which the long vowel variant *bryn-* occurs (Source: Udolph [65]: 58, map 8).

The long-controversial basic form of the Slavic clan around Old Serbian *brna* “excrement, earth”, Bulgarian Church Slavonic (Middle Bulgarian) *br̃nīje* “excrement, clay”, Old Church Slavonic *br̃na* “excrement”, Slovenian *brn* “river mud” etc. is resolved perfectly when the onomastic material is included (for details see 46: S. 499-514). A *\*b̃rn-* approach is often suggested, but West Slavic and especially East Slavic water names such as *Brynica*, *Brenica*, *Branica* and *Bronica*, *Bronnica*, *Brono* speak against it. In addition, in the name treasure north of the Carpathians, in addition to the aforementioned *\*br̃n-* < *\*br̃n-*, the ablaut variant *\*bryn-* < *\*br̃n-* can also be found (*Brynica*, *Brynówka*, *Bryniec*). Slavic *\*bryn-* requires an approach *\*b(h)r̃n-* and meets easily with Germanic *\*bhr̃n-* in Low German *br̃n-*, High German *braun*, English *brown*.

This example is important in two ways. On the one hand, it becomes clear that it is a South Slavic word group that, although missing from the Slavic vocabulary north of the Carpathians, has left its clear traces in the names there. There are two ways to explain this. On the one hand, one can assume that the word family developed separately in South Slavic and that South Slavic groups then moved north and left their South Slavic peculiarities in the names. This is an extremely complicated assumption, especially given the fact that the *brn-*, *bron-*, *bryn-* names are also widespread north of the Carpathians. The second possibility is that the existence of the names north of the Carpathians is taken as evidence that the underlying words were known to the vocabulary of the Slavs who settled there and that the names were created from them. One can only conclude from this: the names found north of the Carpathians do not come from a single Slavic language - not even from South Slavic - but from a precursor to all Slavic languages, i.e. from Proto- or Common Slavic itself.

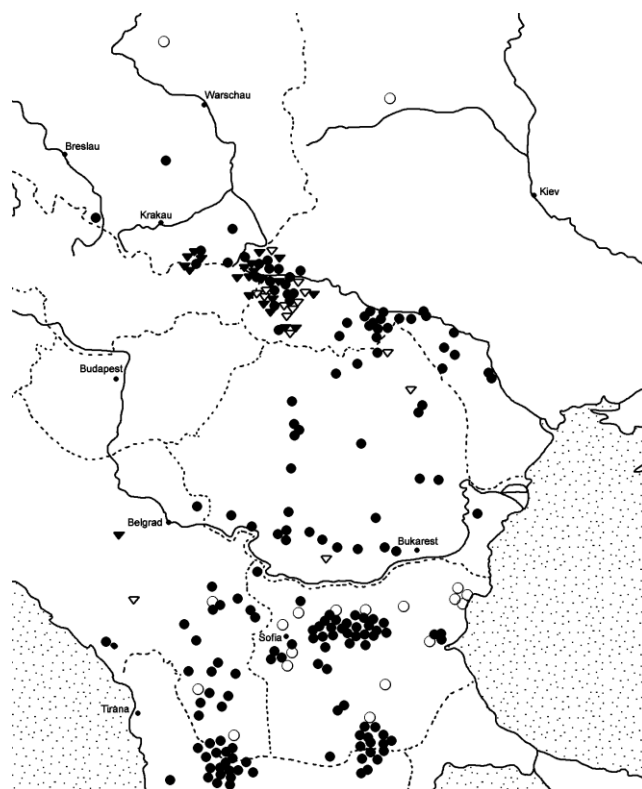
This is strongly confirmed by the fact that the beginnings *\*br̃n-* and *\*bryn-* are reflexes of an old ablaut (more examples follow below), which also only has to come from an old Slavic language level.

If you now add the spread of the names and realize that both ablaut variants in the name inventory only occur side by side in a certain area of the Slavic languages, you get another solid argument for the fact that here - roughly speaking: in southern Poland and western Ukraine (in Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and in Slovenia there is only one variant) - the home and the starting area of the Slavic expansion must be sought.

(3) Ancient Slavic water names can still be determined by following the traces of the ablaut. There are ablaut phenomena in almost all Indo-European languages, here are only mentioned *singen* - *sang* - *gesungen*, *bieten* - *bot* - *geboten*; English *sing* - *sang* - *sung*; Lithuanian *žalias* “green” - *žolė* “grass”; Greek *lego* - *logos*; Slavic *tek-* “flow” - *tok* “current” (also in *potok*, see above).

However, traces of ablaut in Slavic - in contrast to Germanic - can only be found to a limited extent, so that only a few relics can be expected in hydronymy. However, these are of very special value and therefore their occurrence and distribution should be given particular attention. We have already discussed *\*br̃n-* > *brn-*, *\*br̃n-* > *bryn-* above. Other important cases follow here.

For Proto-Slavic, a word *\*jъz-vorъ* can be used with the meaning “source, lowland, stream valley, spring, whirlpool”, which is found in Old Russian *izvorъ* “source”, Ukrainian *izvir* “small mountain stream”, Serbian, Croatian *izvor* “source, spring, whirlpool” lives on. This word contains an ancient composition, because Slavic knows the verb *vъrěti* “to bubble”, but not an independent *\*vor-* (for word and name material see [65] (S. 163-170), cf. also [54] (S. 260f.).



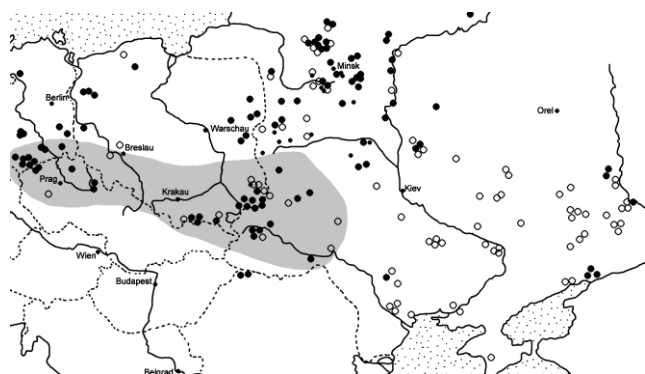
**Figure 10.** Distribution of place names containing Slavic *\*jъz-vorъ* “source, fountain”; circles and Triangles symbolize the different developments in the Slavic languages (*izvor* or *zvor*), graded in size according to water, place and field names (Source: Udolph 1994: 169, map 13).

Therefore, the distribution of names (Map 10) is of particular importance. The assumption that the occurrence in the Carpathian and Beskid region could be an extension of a younger, South Slavic name is not possible in view of the ablaut inherited from the Indo-European precursor. Rather, the names in the Dniester and San regions come from a language level that still knew the underlying appellative. This can only have been a preliminary stage of the individual Slavic languages, i.e. in other words, a common Slavic or proto-Slavic language layer.

In comparison with the spread of *bagno*-names (Figure 7), this map also shows that the later southern Slavs not only used one route along the Carpathian arch (see figure 8), but also the southern one on various routes across today's Romania reached the Balkans.

Similar to *\*br̃n-*/*\*bryn-*, names are common that carry clearly recognizable traces of an old ablaut. It's about Belarusian *krynica* “small lake; watercourse that emerges from the earth, source”, Ukrainian *krynica* “source”, Polish *krynica*, *krenica* “source, fountain”, which continue a basic form *\*kr̃n-ica* (for details see 65: 367-374). There is a so-called expansion stage, which in Ukrainian (dialectal) *kyrnyčja*, *kernyc'a* “source”, Old Polish *krnicza* “rivus”, Slovenian *krnica* “deep place in the water, water vortex, river depth” has its short vowel equivalent *\*kr̃n-*.

If one looks at the occurrence of the *krynica*- names, which cover a wide area, and compares this with the spread of the short vowel ablaut variant (figure 11), an area becomes clear in which both variants occur side by side. The resulting territory can certainly be viewed as an old Slavic settlement area.

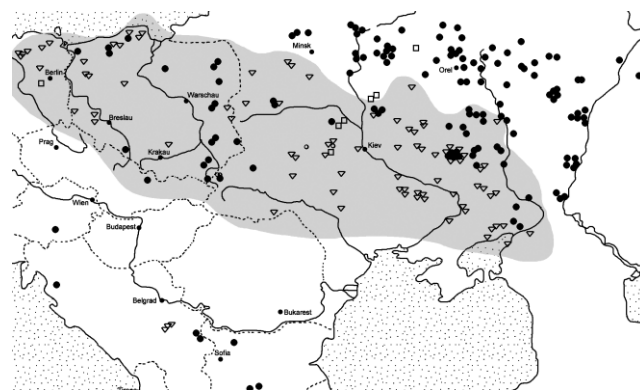


**Figure 11.** Distribution of place names that contain Slavic \**krŭn* > *krŏn*- or \**krŭn* > *kryn* (ablaut-tending forms) “source, fountain, stream”; Black filled circles = immediate formations; white circles = suffixed formations; The size of the symbols is staggered according to the name of the body of water, place and field. The hatching indicates the area in which only the short vowel \**krŭn/krŏn* variant is encountered (Source: Udolph 1994: 169, map 13).

Attempts to relocate the ethnogenesis of Slavic to the Oka region (Gołab [20]), to Asia (Kunstmann [36]) or to the Balkans (Trubačev [63]) - on the other hand Udolph [68, 73] must fail because of these distributions. It would be necessary to deal more intensively with these facts, especially since similar phenomena can also be demonstrated for the question of Germanic homeland and expansion (see below). The next case is very similar.

In addition to the well-known Russian appellative *grjaz* “dirt, excrement, mud”, which is found in, among other things, Belarusian *hrjaz*’ “soggy spot on a path, swamp, dirt”, Ukrainian *hrjaz*’ “swamp, puddle, mud” and Slovenian *grêz* “moor, mud” equivalents, and presupposes a proto-Slavic approach \**grêz*-, Slavic also knows the Ablaut \**grQz*-, for example in Ukrainian *hruz*’ “swamp, moor, morass”, Belarusian *hruzála*, *hruzalo* “dirty place, swampy place”, Polish *grąz*, *gręzu* “muddy swamp” (detailed discussion in Udolph [65] (S. 142-152). It should be noted that South Slavic does not have the ablaut form \**grQz*-, so it has no part in this Proto-Slavic ablaut variant.

The distribution of names certainly corresponds to this (figure 12): the names are widely spread, a particular productivity can be observed in East Slavic, South Slavic only has the \**grêz*-variant.



**Figure 12.** Distribution of place names that contain Slavic \**grêz*- / \**grQz*- (ablaut forms) “mud, morass, swamp”; Quadrilaterals = \**grêz*-; Triangles = \**grQz*-; The size of the symbols is staggered according to the name of the body of water, place and field; The hatching indicates the area in which only the \**grQz*-variant is encountered (Source: Udolph 1997: 59, map 9).

A homeland of Slavic in the Balkans is therefore completely ruled out (we are talking about proto-Slavic ablaut variants, the productivity and impact of which can be seen long before they penetrated the Balkans). Based on these facts, Slavic can only have developed north of the Carpathians.

In summary, this is supported not only by the word pair *grjaz*’/*hruz*’ just discussed, but also by the previously discussed groups around *izvor*’/*vŕrěti*, *krynica* and, above all, *brŏn*’/*bryn*-, which is due to the secure connection with a Germanic color word is additionally anchored in the Proto-Slavic vocabulary.

(4) The discovery that under a single language layer of water names in Europe (it does not matter whether it is Germanic, Celtic, Slavic or Baltic) there is a network of pre-single language = Old European = Indo-European names opens up new possibilities for the determination of the area in which an Indo-European language developed.

In the Slavic territory, this can be seen primarily in a few but important cases: these are ancient Slavic suffixes that are based on pre-Slavic, Indo-European roots, names or bases. What is important and crucial is where such names are located.

The largest river in Poland, the *Wisła*, German *Weichsel*, has a clearly pre-Slavic name, no matter how you explain it (see most recently Babik [5] (S. 311-315); Udolph [69] (S. 303-311). For the question that concerns us here and now, the tributary of the San *Wisłok*, approximately 220 km long, and the approximately 165 km long tributary of the Vistula, the *Wisłoka*, are of considerable importance.

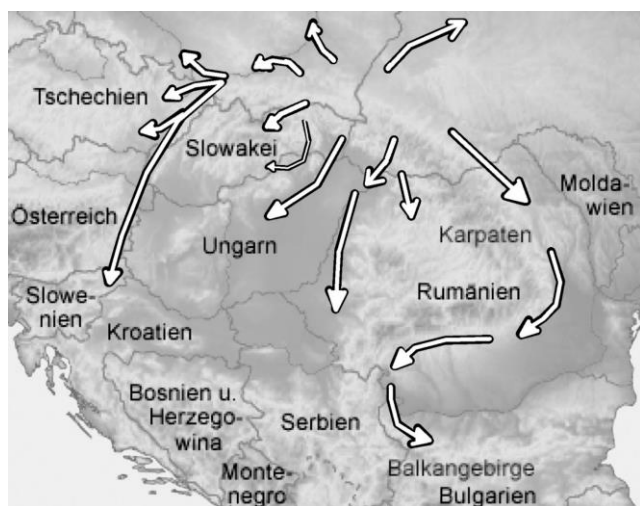
With the same suffix are formed *Sanok*, a place on the San southwest of Przemyśl; *Sanoka*, a water name no longer known today, 1448 *per fluvium Szanoka*, near the place Sanoka and with a diminutive suffix to *-ok*-, which is a tributary of the Sanok, which is called *Sanoczek* (for details see Rymut/Majtán [47] (S. 222); Udolph [69] (S. 264-270). It is

also certain that San is a pre-Slavic name. The different views on the etymology do not change this (see a brief summary of this in B. Czopek-Kopciuch (In: *Nazwy miejscowe Polski*, t. 13, Kraków 2016: 48). With the suffix variant *-očb*, this also includes *Liwoz* and *Liwozka*, river names near Kraków; a mountain range of the Beskids is also mentioned in Długosz as *Lywoz*.

All names are located in the south or southeast of Poland, exactly in the area that has clearly been identified as part of the Proto-Slavic settlement area by the Slavic words and names that have already been discussed. According to the judgment of *Słownik Prasłowiański* [59] (S. 92), the suffix *-ok-* represents a proto-Slavic archaism. It appears appellatively, for example, in *snъvѣdokъ*, *snubokъ*, *vidokъ*, *edok*, *igrok*, *inok*, etc., but its antiquity is also reflected in this, among other things that it belongs to archaic athematic tribes. It must be clearly pointed out that - as was often assumed in the past - the existence of pre-Slavic, Old European names in the presumably old or oldest settlement area of Slavic tribes does not speak against the assumption that this was located there, but is the necessary consequence of the fact that The individual Indo-European languages did not develop out of a vacuum, but rather developed, and one might even say, had to develop, on a broad Indo-European basis from a layer of old European names.

Since *-ok-* is now an archaic suffix, the names mentioned here can be assigned to an older level. They are therefore very likely to be seen as links between Old European and Slavic hydronymy.

#### *Summary - Homeland of Slavic tribes*



**Figure 13.** Expansion of Slavic tribes in the light of geographical names (draft).

My summary of the investigation of water names for the question of the oldest settlement areas of Slavic tribes is as follows: the premises required for the question from a linguistic, linguistically and onomastic perspective are taken

into account by all the place and water names examined with regard to a possible area in a very specific area: it is the Pre-Carpathian region. In a simple mapping are summarized the results of the name distribution of Slavic water words and water names (figure 13). The core of the expansion is an area north of the Carpathians, roughly between Kraków and Bukovina.

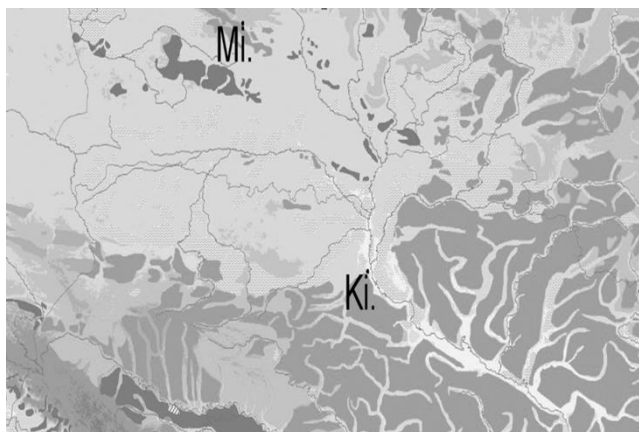
However, it must be said with all clarity that the boundaries cannot be as clearly stated as the map seems to suggest. It is an attempt to present the core of the mapping in a simple form. Every mapping of a place or water name type varies; there are hardly any two maps that coincide in their centers or peripheries. But it can be accepted that this assignment makes sense.

This is because there is another aspect that has not yet been addressed in addition to archaeology, genetic research, linguistics and onomastics as well as history: the soil science.

It was emphasized at the beginning of this article that this article was written primarily from a linguistic and onomastic perspective. In recent years, however, it has become increasingly clear - not only in the collection and interpretation of Slavic names - that there is another aspect that apparently has nothing to do with geographical names, but which, as far as we know, is crucial for early: The quality of agricultural soils.

As early as the 1920s and 1930s, attempts were made to associate certain place names with the different quality of the soil. Since then, there have actually been numerous publications dedicated to this topic. A list of the relevant literature is omitted here and only mentioned the work of Schlüter [51]. Recently the opinion has repeatedly been expressed that a connection between soil quality and certain Slavic place name types must be viewed as certain. I pointed this out in detail in the review of a book by Walter Wenzel (Udolph [92]) and quote a few sentences from W. Wenzel here: "In Upper Lusatia we were able to determine that these four [place name] types only occurred in the central loess areas with the most fertile soils, where the immigrants had first settled... The course of settlement depends to a decisive extent [also on]... the quality of the soil, which can vary quite a bit in Lower Lusatia, even over shorter distances. And even more clearly elsewhere: This can be confirmed "with concrete land value figures from the Atlas of the History and Regional Studies of Saxony... If one compares the distribution of this type of name... with the land value map by W. Stams, the connection between soil quality and name type cannot be overlooked."

Let us try to transfer these by no means new findings to the soils of Poland and Ukraine. A loess atlas published in 2007 (Haase et al. [26]), from which is offered here an excerpt here, has proven to be particularly helpful.



**Figure 14.** Loess distribution in eastern Poland and Ukraine. Mi = Minsk, Ki. = Kiev, dark gray = loess over 5 m thick (according to Haase et al. 2007).

It makes no effort to correlate the distribution of loess in the Pre-Carpathian region with the old Slavic water names compiled in this article.

Of course, you also have to take into account that loess soils are not always easy to work. My careful attempt to incorporate findings from ancient land research into this question led me to a few studies from which only a few passages are selected here. As a layperson in the field of soil research, it is advisable to be very careful here. But the following comments essentially support my thoughts. Scheffer [48] (S. 116-117) says: “Since the Neolithic, there has been a considerable narrowing of the black earth areas in Central Europe that were then preferred for settlement purposes... Up to the present day, the heavy soils of the loess areas, the young ground moraine landscapes, The marshes and the low mountain ranges are considered to be more favorable for agricultural production than the light soil types, as they have higher reserves of plant nutrients...” And a few pages later, B. Meyer [39] (S. 119) says that heavy potassium-rich soils were preferred in the medieval clearing periods despite their heavy resilience.

Nevertheless, a related thought is expressed here, that comes from a discussion I had with K. Casemir (Göttingen/Münster) about loess soils and the age of place names. If you take a closer look at the distribution of place names (e.g. in eastern Lower Saxony, relevant from an onomological perspective: [13]) you can come to the conclusion that the oldest Germanic place names, i.e. the suffix formations, “are not in the core areas of the loess basins, which are undoubtedly the oldest settlement areas, ... but on their edges” [13] (S. 410). An opinion by G. Overbeck (quoted in Casemir [13] (S. 49, note 212) goes in a similar direction, according to which the preference for poorer quality soil in older settlements is related to the settlers' 'technical' possibilities for cultivating the soil. The more fertile but at the same time heavy soils, such as those found in most Büttel towns, could only be cultivated with improved equipment. For this reason,

the better soils were initially hardly used and were only settled at a later date.

Applying this to the loess distribution in western Ukraine and southeastern Poland, it is very noticeable that the center of the Old Slavic names is in the area in which the loess distribution gradually “frays out” (Figure 14), i.e. approximately in the area west of Kiev between Kraków in the west and Vinnycja and Moldova in the east.

To put it briefly: the distribution of good soils coincides with that of the ancient Slavic names. If this is correct, then one can assume that there is a nucleus - or rather a core landscape - of Slavic settlement in the Subcarpathian region. The existence of pre-Slavic, but Indo-European names and of water names, the structure of which indicates that they arose from an Indo-European basis, but then also developed Slavic peculiarities, can now - as already said above - only be understood in such a way that here, in a process that lasted centuries, the language group that is now called Slavic emerged from an Indo-European dialect area.

Since good soil obviously may have played a role, the following consideration is up for debate here: good soil leads to better harvests, minimizes general and child mortality, and leads to excess population pressure, which can only be alleviated by a gradual expansion of settlement activity can be. The same can be said about the question of the homeland and expansion of Germanic tribes, which I will come to shortly.

The intensive study of the geographical names of Eastern and Central Europe leads to the realization that Slavic emerged from an Indo-European dialect (Old European hydronymy and Baltic-Germanic-Slavic similarities play a role) in a relatively limited area between the Upper Vistula and Bukovina must have developed, a Balto-Slavic intermediate stage could not have existed, there were early, almost continuous contacts with Baltic and Germanic tribes, and the later residences of East, West and South Slavic peoples were reached through strong expansion. Very similar expansions have been observed among Celtic and Germanic tribes, although these preceded the Slavic expansion.

*b.) Homeland and expansion of Germani settlers according to the names*

The development of the Germanic language stem from an Indo-European precursor must probably be placed earlier than in the case of Slavic. Around 500 AD, clear differences in the language structures of Germanic can already be seen, for example between East Germanic (Gothic), North Germanic (Runes, Proto-Norse) and West Germanic. According to most linguists, the development of Germanic as an independent branch can be observed, among other things, in the effect of the first (Germanic) sound shift, around 500 BC. put on. In its effects - contrary to the results of the second (High German) sound shift - this obviously affected all Germanic language branches very uniformly and without major differences. This process must have taken place in a relatively small geographical area, otherwise there would certainly have been greater differences in the sound shift reflexes.

Apparently that is not the case. The question is whether the thesis that the Germanic “original homeland” must be found in a relatively small geographical area can be confirmed with the help of the most ancient Germanic place and water name types.

If you deal with old Germanic place names and their formation, you will soon be led to an old but still valid word from Jacob Grimm [23] (S. 403). He had emphasized almost 200 years ago: “It is the unmistakable direction of later language to abandon derivations and replace them with compositions”. In other words: Derivations, i.e. suffix formations, are usually older formations than compounds or composition formations in Germanic place names. A study dedicated to the older residences of Germanic tribes should therefore focus primarily - although not exclusively - on suffixal formations.

In a comprehensive study of water, place and field names of Germanic origin [70], this topic was treated in its entirety; A little later, derivations were the focus of further contributions [79, 86]. For Lower Saxony, studies by R. Möller (40; 41) should also be taken into account.

Collections and distribution maps of Germanic water words such as *hor* ‘swamp, morass’, *mar(sk)* ‘inland lake, swamp’, *Riede* ‘bach, flow’, from suffix formations with *-ithi-*, *-ing-/ung-*, *-st-*, *-str-* and from place name basic words such as *-hude* ‘ford, mooring place on the water’, *\*sēťjanez/sēt[j]ōz* ‘settler’, *kot* ‘settlement’, *tun/ton* ‘city, settlement’, *tie* ‘meeting place, court place’, *sel(e)* ‘apartment, village, settlement’, *klint* ‘Hill, Abhang’, *wedel* ‘ford’ and many others clearly show that Germanic continuously developed in the continental Germanic area, more precisely: in southern Lower Saxony, in western Saxony-Anhalt and in parts of Thuringia from a clearly recognizable Indo-European substrate.

In order to keep this article within the scope, I have selected just a few distribution cards and provided them with a short comment.

From this central space, early relationships can be seen both to the west (Westphalia, Flanders, northern France, England) and to the north (Denmark, Sweden, further to Norway). Here are a few examples, first of all for relations with the West.

#### a. German *\*fani/-ja* “swamp, moor”

An old name for “swamp, moor”, but also for “low-lying grassland” is found in the Germanic clan around the Gothic *fani* “mud”, usually *\*fanja* is used. There are hundreds of *Fenn* names; in Germany for example *Ackerfenne*, *Fanhusen*, *Fehn*, *Fehnhusen*, *Venusberg* in Bonn, also *Venusbruch* and *Venusbügel* near Wernigerode, *Vienenburg*, 1306 *date Vineburch*. Also morphologically older types such as *Finne* in Thuringia, 1106 *in silva Vin* etc.; *Viningi* and *Viningeburg* near Lüneburg; *-r-*-derivation in *Fiener Bruch* near Genthin, 1178 *in palustri silva, que Vinre dicitur*; *Vinnen* (Hümmeling), around 1000 *Vinnum*, *Finnun*; with *-str-* Formans: *Vinster* (Oberlahnkreis), 893 (Copy 1222) *Veneter*,

*Wenestre*, *Uenestre*, 1312 and others. *Vinstern*, belong here.

Correspondences are also common in the Netherlands, Belgium and northern France: *Bakkeveen*; *Berkven*; *Diepenveen*, including *apa-name Vennepe*, around 960 *Vannapan*, *Vennapen*, and *Venepe*, 1138-53 *Uenepe*, 1144 *Venepe*; also compare *Venlo*.

There are just as many examples in England: *Blackfen*, *Broadfans*, *Bulphan*, *Coven*, *Fambridge*, *Fan*, *Fanns*, *Fann's*, *Fen*, *Fenn*, *Fennes*, *Fulfen*, *Gladfen*, *Orsett Fen*, *Redfern's*, *Stringcock Fen*, *Vange*, *Fencote*, and place names of the type are common *Fenton*, 1086 *Fentone* etc.

The map shows strong occurrence in northwest Germany, on the Lower Rhine, in Flanders and England. Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland are only slightly involved. Once again it becomes clear that the land seizure by West Germanic tribes must have taken place across the canal.

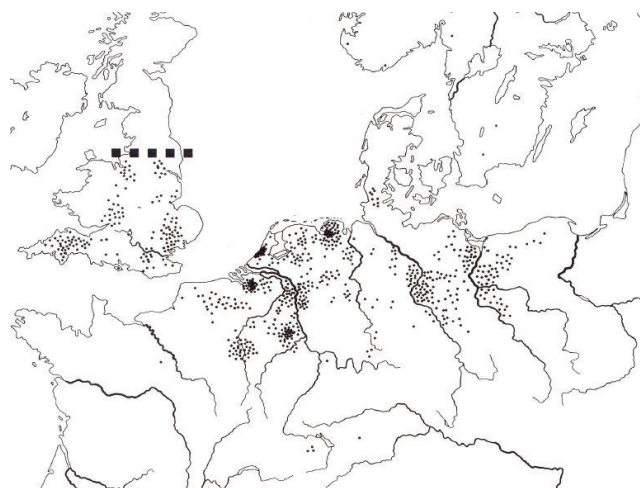


Figure 15. Germanic *\*fanja* in place and field name (Source: Udolph 1994: 315, map 31).

b. So far, little attention has been paid to a word that is well attested in German, Dutch and English: Old High German *horo* “mud, porridge, dirt, feces, earth”, Middle High German *hor*, *hore* “swamp ground, filthy ground, feces, dirt, mud”, Old Saxon *horu* “feces, dirt”, Old Frisian *hore* “mud, feces”, Middle Dutch *hore*, *hor* “lutum; Modder”, Old English *horh*, *horu* “filth, dirty”.

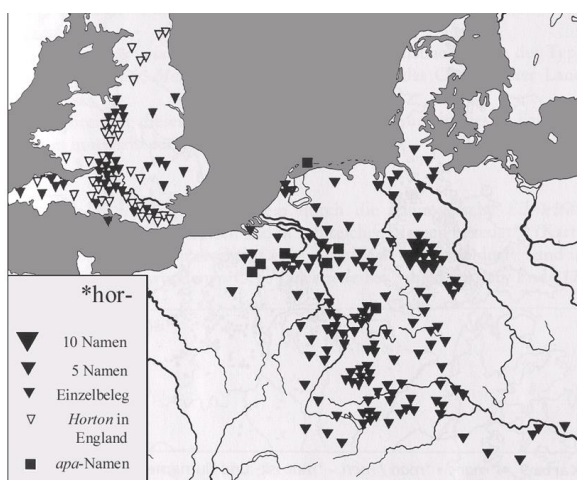
German place names such as *Haarbach*, *Haarhausen*, *Harmke*, *Horbach*, *Harbrücken*, *Harburg bei Hamburg*, *Horb*, *Horbürg*, *Horchheim*, *Hordorf* contain the word.

From the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France belong here: *Althorn* near Saargemünd, 783 *Horone*; *Horenkreek* (Zeeland); *Hoorebeke* near Oudenaarde, East Flanders, 1090 *Horenbecca*; *Hoorsik* in Gelderland and much more.

England has a high proportion of occurrence in place names: *Harborne*; *Harlick*; *Harm-ers*; *Harpole*, 1086 *Horpol*; *Harwood Gate*; *Harton*, 1249 *Horton*; *Hawley*; *Hollowmoor*; *Holyport*, 1220 *Horipord*; *Horbling*, 1086

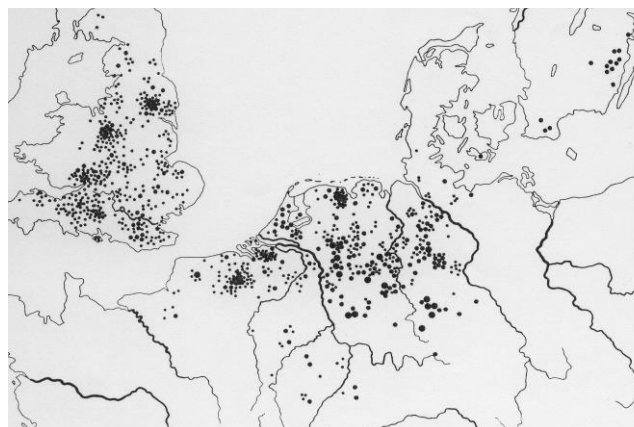
*Horbelinge; Horbury*, 1086 *Horberie*; *Horcott*, -field, -wood; *Le Horemède*; *Horemer stable*; *Horeput*; *Horfield*, 1086 *Horefelle*; *Horham*, ca. 950 *Horham*; *Horish* (Wood); *Horley*, 1374 *Horlawegrene*; *Great, Little Hormeade*, 1086 *Horemède*; 1243-64 *Hormède*, with field name *Horpits* and *Horpyt*; *Horralake*; *Horrel*; *Horsell*, old *Horsele*, *Horisell*, belong to Old English *horgesella*; *Horwell*; *Horwood*, 1086 *Horewode*; *Warpoole*; *Wharley*; *Worley's Fm.* Composites with -tone are numerous in *Horton*, 1086 *Hortune*; 1086 *Hortona*; 946 (13th century copy) *hore tuninge*, are marked on the map with a special symbol).

The distribution map shows that the crucial connections from the Lower Rhine to England run via the southern Netherlands and Belgium as well as the Channel.



**Figure 16.** \*hor- in place names on the continent and in England (Source: Udolph 1994: 328, map 32).

c. An old Germanic word hidden in place names with equivalents and relatives in other Indo-European languages is *mar-*, related to Latin *mare*, Slavic *more* (*Pomorz/Pommern/Pomerania*), also attested in Celtic place names such as *Aremorica*. It is ablaut to German *Meer* < \**mari* and German *Moor* < \**mōra* (a so-called Vrddhi formation); In Germany it can be found in numerous northern and central German place names such as *Behlmer*, *Bettmar*, *Bleckmar*, *Bothmer*, *Dilmar*, *Dittmarn*, *Eschmar*, *Flettmar*, *Friemar*, *Geismar*, *Gelmer*, *Gittmar*, *Görmar*, *Hadamar*, *Heumar*, *Hörstmar*, *Horsmar*, *Horstmar*, *Homar*, *Hukesmere*, *Komar*, *Leitmar*, *Lohmar*, *Ostmare*, *Palmar*, *Rethmar*, *Rettmern*, *Riethmar*, *Ringmar* (see English ON. *Ringmer*, old *Hringamara*), *Rottmar*, *Schötmar*, *Schöttmer*, *Vellmar*, *Villmar*, *Versmar*, *Voßmar*, *Wechmar*, *Weidmar*, *Weimar*, *Weitmar*, *Wethmar*, *Wichmar*, *Widmare*, *Wiedemar*, *Wismar*, *Wißmar*, *Witmar*, *Wittmar*, *Wollmar*, *Wudemar*, *Wymeer*. Compare the distribution on figure 17.



**Figure 17.** \*mar- and \*mar-sk- in place and field names on the continent and in England (Source: Udolph 1994: 375, map 33).

West of Germany the word can be found in *Aalsmeer*, *Alkmaar*, *Alsmar*, *Berdmare*, *Bommeer*, *Dossemer*, *Echmari*, *Gaastmeer* (1132 *Gersmere*), *Hetmere*, *Hoemare*, *Hotmeer*, *Purmer*, *Schermer*, *Spilmeri*, *Wormer*, *Zonnemaire*, 1190 *Suthmera*.

It is also very common in England: *Badlesmere*, *Blakemere*, *Boldmere*, *Bradmore*, *Bulmer*, *Colemere*, *Cuckmere*, *Dodimere*, *Falmer*, *Grasmere*, *Holmer*, *Homer*, *Keymer*, *Marton*, *Minsmere*, *Ringmer*, *Rugmere*, *Sledmere*, *Stanmer*.

The distribution shows that two large areas are connected across the Channel: Northern Germany, the Netherlands and Flanders on the one hand, England on the other. Schleswig-Holstein doesn't matter.

d. A North Sea Germanic water word that has often been discussed in terms of distribution and etymology is *Riede*, in Low German *ride*, *ride*, *rien* "natural watercourse, small river, trickle on the mudflats", Middle Low German *ride*, *rie*, *rige* (*ride*, *rije*, *rige*) "stream, small watercourse, ditch", Old Saxon *ritha*, *rithe* "watercourse, small stream"; Frisian *riede* "gracht, small river in the mudflats", *ryt*, *ryd(e)* "brede greppel", Nordfries. *ride*, advised; Old Frisian *reed* "little stream" and *rith* "stream"; Dutch *rijt* "water-loop", *rijt*, advised "geul in buitendijkse gronden", "binnendijks water in de zeekeilanden Dich bij de kust", Middle Dutch *rijt* f., Old Low Franconian *rith* "torrens".

It occurs very early in English, already Old English *rið*, *riðe* "small river", *riðe* "stream, long, narrow valley, old stream bed", *rið*, *riðe*, *riðig* "a small river", English *rithe*, *ride* "small river, through Rain caused", *rigatt* "a small channel from a stream made by rain", *rithe*, *ride* "a small stream".

In Germany there are numerous names, some of them young, such as *Achelriede*, *Aschriehe*, *Bargeriede*, *Bassriede*, *Bickenriede*, *Bleckriede*, *Bollriede*, *Borgriede*, *Botterriede*, *Brandriehe*, *Bruchriede*, *Brunriehe*, *Diekriede*, *Eilenriede*, *Ellerige*, *Jachelriede*, *Janrieden*, *Middel Rie* (*Middels Rie*), *Exeriede*, *Feldriede*, *Feldriede*, *Flehmanns Rieh*, *Flemish Rüe*, *Weeckenlands Rüe*, *Flissenriede*, *Fluthriede*, *Fohlenrien*, *Fuhlenrüe*, *Fuldenriede*, *Fuhle Rie-de*, *Die Große Riede*,

*Grotrüh, Haferriede, Hauenriede, Holtride* and many more. Older types are 726 (copy around 1222) *Araride* (near Cologne), *Brüchter* near Ebeleben, 876 *Borahtride*, 1290 *Bruchtirde*, also *Burichtride, Borantride*; Corveyer document from approx. 826-876 *Hrithem* (with disorganized H-).

In the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France you can find *Bruggenrijt, Dieprijt, het Dikke Riet, Munnikenzylster, Ekkersrijt, Houtrijt, Jutjesriet, Peelrijt, Pieperij, Riet, Rijt, Segerij* and others; partly young formations.

England has numerous names, some of them very old, such as *Abberd; Beverley Brook*, 693 (11th century copy) *beferið*; *Blackrith*; 972 (copy 1050) *Bordriðig; Chaureth*, 1086 *Caurides; Childrey; Coldrey*, 973/74 (12th century copy) *(to) colriðe; Coleready; Cropredy; Cottedred*, 1086 *Chodrei*; 1228 *Ealdimererithi; Eelrithe*, 680 *ad Aelrithe; Efferiddy; Erith; Fingrith*; 693 water name *Fugelriðie; Fulready; Fulrithes; Gooserye; Hendred*, 984 *Henna rið*; 774 *Hweolriðig; Landrith; Shottory*, 699-709 (copy 11th century) *Scottarið* and much more.

The mapping (see figure 18) shows that these names are mainly found in northern Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and England. Apparently the settlers immigrated to England via the Channel.



**Figure 18.** *Riede, ride, rithe, riet, rið* in geographical names (Source: Udolph 1994: 393, map 34).

e. An old word that primarily connects Northern Germany and England is German *Hude*. A German speaker only knows this from place names, especially from *Buxtehude, Fischerhude, Harvestehude* and the *Steinhuder Meer*. However, the meaning of this word remains unknown to a modern speaker. In Northern Germany, *Hude* is mainly found in the names of settlements that are located on bodies of water; in Middle Low German it is still attested as *hûde* "wood storage area, stacking area on a water connection, ferry station". It is also unknown in modern English, but it is still attested in Old English: *hyð* "place that receives the ship when landing, a suitable low bank, a small harbor".

The distribution of place names is interesting. From Germany were collected, among others: *Altenhude; Aschenhude;*

*Billerhude; Dockenhuden*, 1184 *Dockenhute; Dodenhuden*; 1346 *Eckhude; Fischerhude*, 1124 *Widagheshude; Flemhude; Frauenhude; Grönhude; Hamhude; Harwestehude; Heemhude; Huden* near Meppen, 1037 *Huthun* in the document *Hlareshuthun; Hodenhagen*, 1168 (18th century copy) *de Hode* and others; *Hude* (common), also with umlaut *Hüde; Huden*, around 920 *Huthun; Hudow; Hudemühlen; Kayhude; Nedderhude; Obernhude; Pahlhude; Ritterhude; Stapelhude*, 1258 *in loco qui dicitur Stapelhute; Steinhude* on the Steinhuder Meer, 2nd half 14th century *To the Stenhude; Tesperhude; Winterhude*.

The Netherlands also has place names: *Coude Hide* in Zealand; *Coxyde*, 1270 *de Coxhyde; Coxyde (Koksijde); Hude*, 1405 *Hude; Hude driesch; Huderstrate*; 1359 *le Hyde*, near Dunkirk; *Nieuwe Yde* near Nieuwpoort/Oostduinkerke, 1277 *Nova Hida; Raversijde*, 1401 *Wilravens hyde; Lom-bartsijde*, 1408 *Lombaerds yde; Yde*, 1331 *in the Hide*.

The place names in England are important and old: *Aldreth*, 1169-72 *Alreheð(a), -huða; Bablock Hythe; Bleadney*, 712 (copy 14th century) *ad portam quae dicitur Bledenithe; Bolney*, 1086 *Bollehede; Bulverhythe; Chelsea*, 785 *Cealchyþ, Celchyð*, 801 *Caelichyþ; 1275 Chollshethe; Clayhithe, 1268 Clayheth; Covehithe; Creeksea*, 1086 *Criccheseia; Downham Hythe*, 1251 *Dunham hythe; Earith*, 1244 *Herheth; Erith*, 695 *Earhyð; fish hythe; Frecinghyte; Glanty*, 675 (copy 13th century) *Glenthupe; Greenhithe; Heath* (multiple times); *Hidden*, 984 (copy around 1240) *(innan) Hydene; Hithe Bridge; Hive*, 959 (copy around 1200) *Hyðe; Hive*, 1306 *atte hethe; Horsith*, 1249 *Horsyth(e); Hyde*, 1333 *atte Hithe; Horseway*, 1238 *Hors(e)hythe; Hullasey*, 1086 *Hunlafesed; Huyton*, 1086 *Hitune; Hythe (Surrey)*, 675 (copy 13th century) *huþe; Hythe (Cambridge)*, 1221 *Hethelod; Hythe (Kent)*, 1052 *(on) Hyþe; Hythe (Hampshire)*, 1248 *(la) Huthe; Knaith*, 1086 *Cheneide, < cnêohþ; Lakenheath*, ca. 945 *æt Lacingahið; Lambeth*, 1041 *Lambhyð; Maidenhead*, 1202 *Maideheg; Prattshide*, c.1250 *Prattshithe; Rackheath*, 1086 *Racheitha; Rotherhithe*, around 1105 *Rederheia; Sawtry*, 974 *Saltreiam; Small Hythe*, 13th century *Smalide; Stepney*, around 1000 *Stybbanhþe; Swavesey* around 1080 *Suauesheda; Welshithe*, supposedly 675 *Weales hûde*.



**Figure 19.** German *hude*, English *hyð* etc. in place names (Source: Udolph 1994: 472, map 44).

The distribution of the names (see figure 19) clearly shows that there is no evidence that settlers came to England from

Schleswig-Holstein or Jutland. Rather, the place names in Flanders must be taken into account, which apparently form the bridge between the German and English names.

Hermann Jellinghaus had already recognized a hundred years ago that the Hude names were “strong evidence of the origin of the tribe of the southern English population from the Low German plain.”

The distribution maps within Germania, as noted above, also show clear connections to the north. In the past, these were almost always interpreted as expansions of Germanic tribes from their northern European homeland towards the south. However, it can be clearly shown that an original homeland in continental Germanic can be assumed (for more details see Udolph [70] (S. 830-918).

f. A study by K. Bischoff [9], see also Udolph [70] (S. 859-863) gives us more precise knowledge about the spread of the word *\*haugaz* in Germanic, which is attested, among other things, in anord. *haugr* 'hill, burial mound', note also in similar meanings Icelandic *haugur*, Faroese *heyggjur*, *heygur*, Norwegian *haug*, Swedish *hög*, Old Danish *høgh*, Danish *høi*. But it can also be found in place names in Germany; K. Bischoff [9] (Supplement) provides a distribution map (see figure 20).

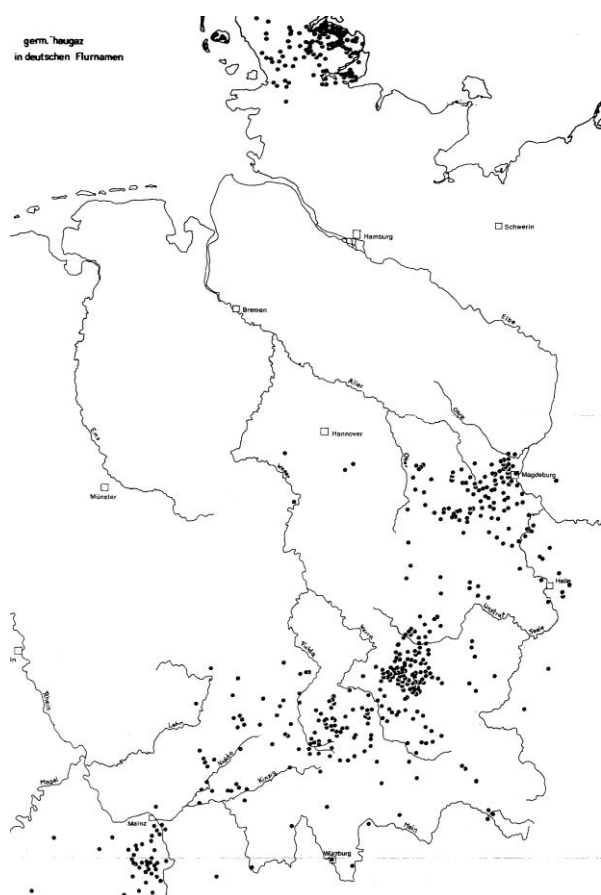


Figure 20. Distribution of hauga- in geographical names (from Bischoff 1975: supplement).

g. *Klint* is a very similar word, a word that is primarily used as an appellative in the north. It is attested: Danish *klint* 'steep sea shore', Swedish *klint* 'top of a hill', assimilated secondary form in Swedish dial. *klett*, Norwegian dial. *klett* 'mountain top, steep sea shore', already Old Norse *klettr* 'free-standing cliff', ablaut form in Norwegian dial. *klant* 'cliff edge, mountain peak' and Danish *klunt* 'lump, lump, blocky person'.

But it is also found in the stock of names, the “graveyard of words” not to a small extent in the continental Germanic area, as figure 21 shows. The scatter is very similar to that of *hauga-*.

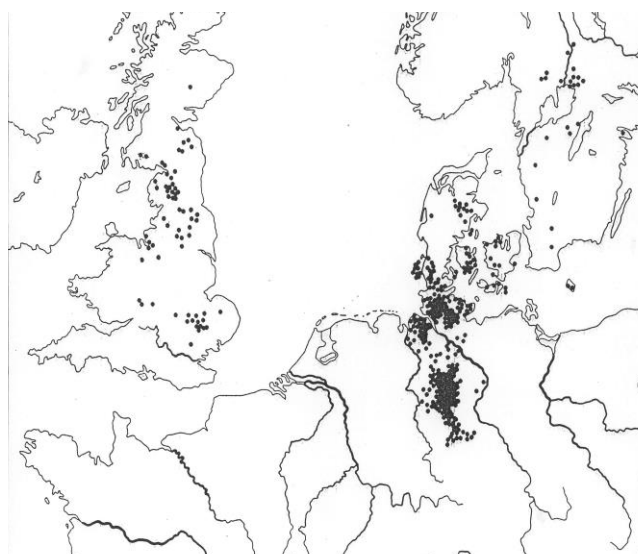
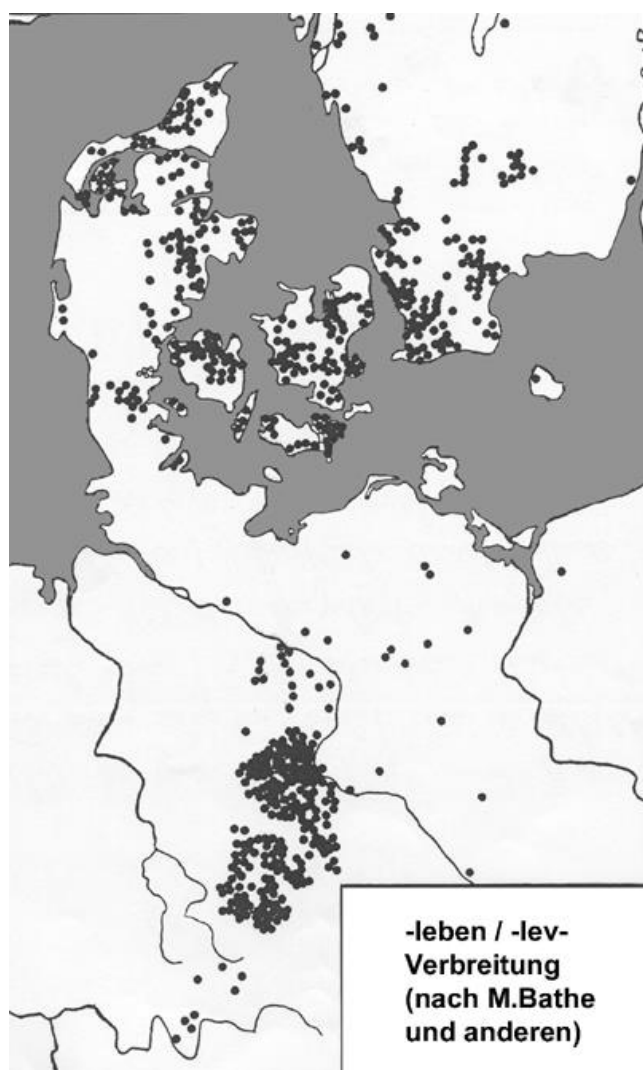


Figure 21. Distribution of klint in geographical names (Source: Udolph 1994: 868-888, map 68).

h. The often discussed and quoted basic word *-leben* (North Germanic *-lev* also belongs here), which is attested in around 200 place names, e.g. in *Uhrsleben*, *Erxleben*, *Eilsleben*, *Meilersleben*; *Aschersleben*, *Oschersleben*, *Eisleben*, *Barleben*, *Roßleben*, and in Denmark and southern Sweden as *Bindslev*, *Jerslev*, *Roslev*, *Falslev*, *Tinglev* and others.

The basis is Gothic *laiba* “remnant”, Old High German *leiba*, Old Saxon *lëva* “remainder, inheritance, estate”, Old Frisian *lâva* “legacy, inheritance, inheritance law”, Old English. *lâf* “legacy, legacy”, Old North *leif* “remnant”, Old Danish *kununglef* “crown estate”. In the first part there is always a personal name in the genitive singular.

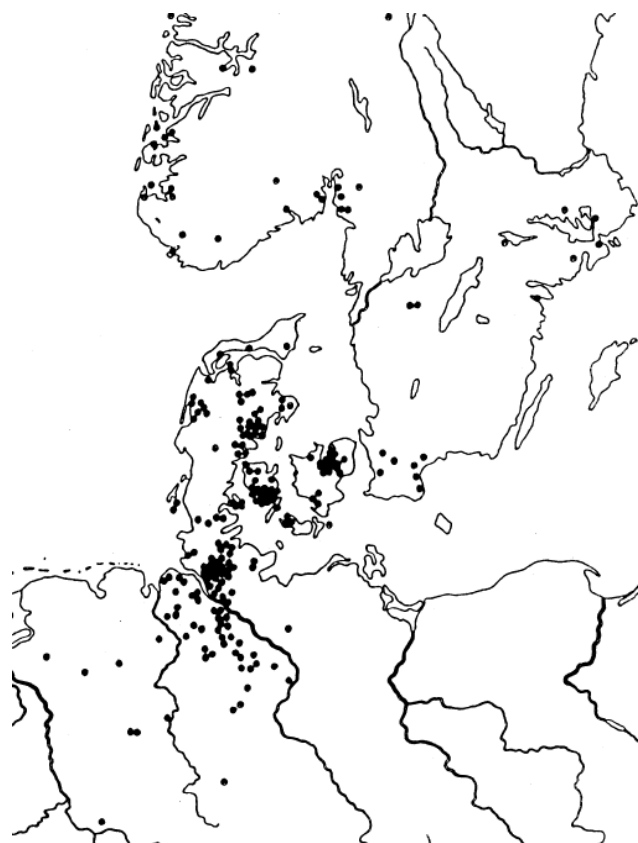
The unusual spread of names (see figure 22) has often been discussed, although the large and most comprehensive book on these names received almost no attention [Bathe [6]. If this is taken into account, there is more evidence for a south-north migration than the opposite direction, cf. Udolph [70] (S. 497-513).



**Figure 22.** Distribution of place names with -leben/-lev (according to M. Bathe and others).

i. The unusual spread of names (see figure 22) has often been discussed, but the largest and most comprehensive book on these names is almost was not taken into account (Bathe [6]). If you take this into account, there is more to be said for it a south-north migration as the opposite direction, cf. Udolph [70] (S. 497-513).

j. And a final example of the name connections between the continent and the Scandinavian north: assumed in North German place names one Middle Low German *Wedel*, Old Saxon. *widil* 'ford', which is related to Old Norse *vadhell*, *vadhall*, *vadhill* 'shallow place in the fjord for wading across', Norwegian *val*, *vaul* 'shallow fjord spot', in place names also *Voil*, *Veel*, Danish *vedel*, *vejl* (16th century), Danish place names *Veile*, *Veilby*, *Veielgaard*, *Veilö*, *Faareveile*, the meaning in Denmark is primarily 'passage through boggy terrain' (For distribution see figure 23).

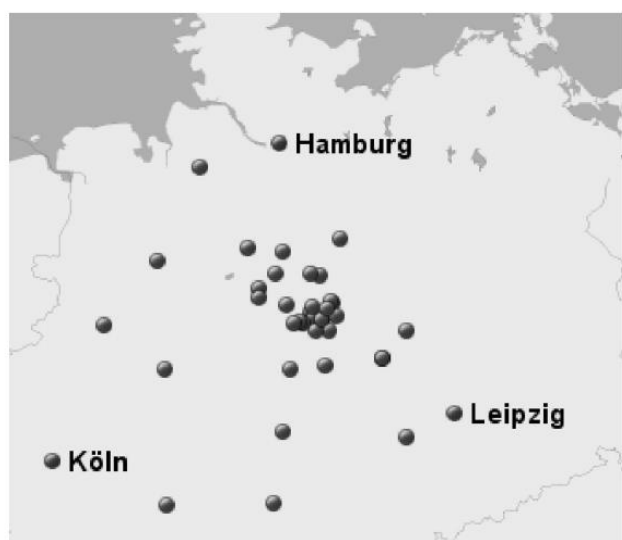


**Figure 23.** Distribution of -wedel-/\*wadil- in geographical names (according to Udolph [70] (S. 892-906 with map 71).

The connections with the Scandinavian north briefly outlined here can also be found in a special feature, which lies in the fact that exclusively appellatives attested in Nordic also in names of continental Germanic area can be found (detailed and interpreted in Udolph [77, 79, 80, 86]. There are now more than three dozen of these cases known, including the names *Braunlage*, *Dorstadt/Dorestad*, *Kösen/Coesfeld*, *Ohrum*, *Oerie*, *Rhön* [4] (S. 203ff.) Scheuen, *Scheie*.

They can only come from an ancient, common or proto-Germanic period and show that the underlying appellatives of this ancient layer must have listened.

If you map these place names (see figure 24), you can see that there is a center these place names that can only be explained with the help of Scandinavian words there is: it is eastern Lower Saxony with the adjacent areas in Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Northern Hesse. A very similar picture emerges, if you consider appellatives that are only available in Scandinavia and the Alemannic area can be found (On the topic cf. Kolb [30] and und the anthology Alemannien und der Norden [1]), look for place names on the continent (see figure 24).



**Figure 24.** Scandinavian words in German place names (Source: Udolph 1980).

It is known that an important change in the formation of nouns took place in the Germanic language history: while today mainly compounds are used, cf. German *Hand-tuch*, *Auto-reifen*, *Haus-wand*, English *main door*, *forrest path*, *car tyre*, Norwegian *hoved dør*, *skov vej*, *bildæk*, new words were formed in the early Germanic period, especially with suffixes, i.e. as a derivation: *\*gab-lo-* “fork”, *\*ham-iþja-* “shirt”. When searching for ancient Germanic place names, the suffix formations are particularly important. For reasons of space, just a few examples are selected here.

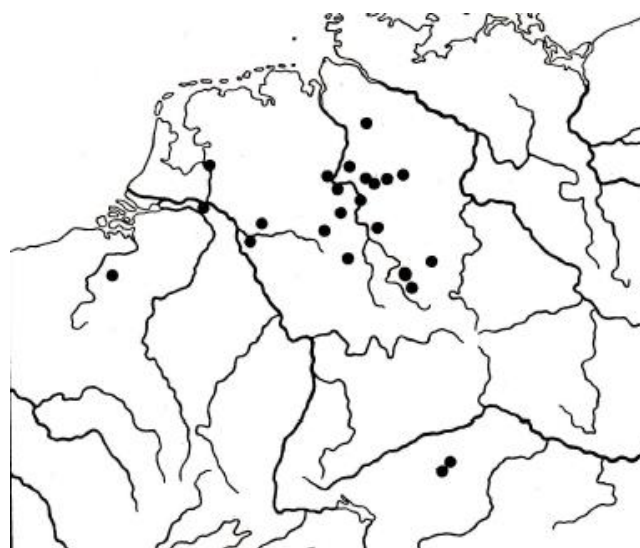
#### 1. -s-formations

In ancient times, Germanic partly inherited -s-formations in its appellative stock, but partly also formed them anew. One should remember, for example, old hereditary words such as Gothic *aiz*, *bariz-eins*, *rimis* as well as some new formations (which can also be based on old *s*-stems) such as Gothic *aqizi*, *jukuzi*, Old High German *chuburra*. Further developments of the suffix *-sa/-sō-* are also characteristic of Germanic, such as formations with a middle vowel such as ahd. *bilisa*, *elira*, *felis(a)*. H. Krahe/W. Meid [33] (S. 137) also provide a brief compilation of “Old Germanic names with s-suffix”. In addition to personal names such as *Gabso*, *Hariso*, *Aliso*, *Thoriso*, river names such as *Ems* and *Effze* are also mentioned, which are rightly linked to non-Germanic material. R. Möller [41] and J. Udolph [70] examined and compiled corresponding formations in the name inventory. I am ignoring the fact that -s-formations can also be found in pre-individual water names of the Old European hydronymy (briefly discussed in Udolph [70] (S. 199-201).

These include, among others: a desert town *Blekisi*, 826-876 in *Blekisi*; desert *Degese*, 1196 *Degese*; *Devese*; *Gebe-see* near Erfurt, 802-815 *Gebise*; *Heerse* < *Herisi*; *Hünxe*, 1092 *Hungese*; name of a desert *Ilse* near Boffzen (near Hörter), 1031 *Ilisa*; *Ilvese*, 1096 *Hilvise*; *Klings* near Bad Salzungen, 869 *Clingison*; *Laisa* on the Eder River, 8th cen-

tury *Lehesi*, *Lihesi*; *Lens* near Bodenwerder, 1st half 9th century *Linesi*; Meensen near Göttingen, 990 *Manisi*; *Resse* near Recklinghausen, 10th century *Redese*; *Reese* near Stolzenau, 11th century *Raedese*, Schlipps near Freising, between 851 and 1130 *Slipfes*, *Slippes*, *Slipfes*, *Schlipfs*; *Seelze* near Hannover, 1160 *Selessen*, 1187 *Selesse*; field name *Sötz*, swamp forest near Goslar, noted early as *Sotisse*; *Vielshof* near Salzkotten, noted ca. 1130 (*Vita Meinwercki Vilisi*).

The mapping (figure 25) shows a picture that you already know from other distribution maps: The core areas are southern Lower Saxony, western Saxony-Anhalt, northern and western Thuringia, northern Hesse and Westphalia.



**Figure 25.** -s-suffixes in geographical names of Central Europe (Source: Udolph 1994: 199-218, with map 25).

#### 2. -st-formations

There are numerous formations with an -st-suffix, especially in the Baltic languages. among others, the following stand out: in Latvia: *Lilaste*, *Ļubasts*, *Ļubešta*, *Murmasta*; from the rest of the Baltics: *Ab-istā*, *Akn-ystā*, *Arv-ystas*, *Avinuostas*, *Debr-estis*, *Grab-uostā*, *Iēž-esta*, *Lam-istas*, *Laukystā*, *Lokystā*, *Malkēsta*, *Pekl-ystā*, *Savistas*, *Taurōsta*, *Uol-astā*, *Varn-uostas*, *Ūm-asta*, from Austria *Aist* < *\*Agist(a)*, from France *Autisse* < *\*Altīssa* < *\*Altīstā*, from Dalmatia *Bigeste*, *Ladesta*, *Trieste*, *Palaeste*, *Segest-(ica)*, *Penestae*, from Veneto *Este* < *Ateste*.

In addition to the two centers that stand out here, namely the Baltic States and the areas around the Adriatic, there is another area that has a significant share in the suffix in the name: Central and Northern Europe. A more precise distribution is shown on figure 26, which includes, among other things:

866 *Alesta*, place-name near Charleroi; *Alst* near Warendorf, 12th century *Alest*; *Aalst*, place-name in Flanders, 866 *Alost*; *Aalst*, place-name near Hasselt, 1107 *Alost*, *Alste*;

*Aalst* in Gelderland, around 850 *Halosta*; *Alst* near Leer, 12th century *Alst*; river name *Apfelstädt* in Thuringia, also place-name, 775 *Aplast*; *Arzbach* near Gotha, 1049 *Arestbach*; *Beverst* near Tongern, 1314 *Beverst*; place-name, mentioned in the *Vita Meinweri* (ca. 1130): *Bilisti*; River name (inflow to the Rhine) *Burdist*, 755 *Burdist*; \**Agist*- possibly in *Eekst* near Aces; *Ehrsten* near Kassel, earlier documented as *Heristi*, *Herste*; *Elst* near Nijmegen, 726 *Helistê*; *Ennest* near Olpe, 1175 *Ennest*; *Ergste* near Schwerte, 1096 *Argeste*; *Evelste* near Pattensen, 1246 in *Evelste*; *Exten* near Rinteln, 896 *Achrieste*; place-name *Forst* near Holzminden, < \**Farista*; *Haste* near Os-nabrück, 1146 *Harst*; *Harste* near Göttingen 1141 *Herste*, *Harste*; field name *Idesten* or *Itesten* near Emden; river name *Innerste*, old *Indrista*; desert place 1106 *Lammeste* near Hanover; place name *Landas* near Lille, old *Landast*; *Leveste* near Hannover, 1229 *de Leueste*; place name *Pretitz* near Zingst, 9th century *Bridasti*; place name *Ranst* near Antwerp, 1140 *Ramst*, 1148 *Ranst*; *Riemst* near Tongern, 1066 *Reijmost*; *Rumst* near Antwerp, 1157 *Rumeste*; *Selsten* near Geilenkirchen, can be reconstructed as \**Salist*; *Thüste* near Hamelin, 1022 (forgery) *Tiuguste*, *Thiuguste*; *Villigst* near Ergste, 1170 *Vilgeste*; *Zingst* near Nebra, 1203 *Cindest*.

Numerous other parallels have now been added to this collection from 1994, especially through the comprehensive study of the place names in Lower Saxony and Westphalia.

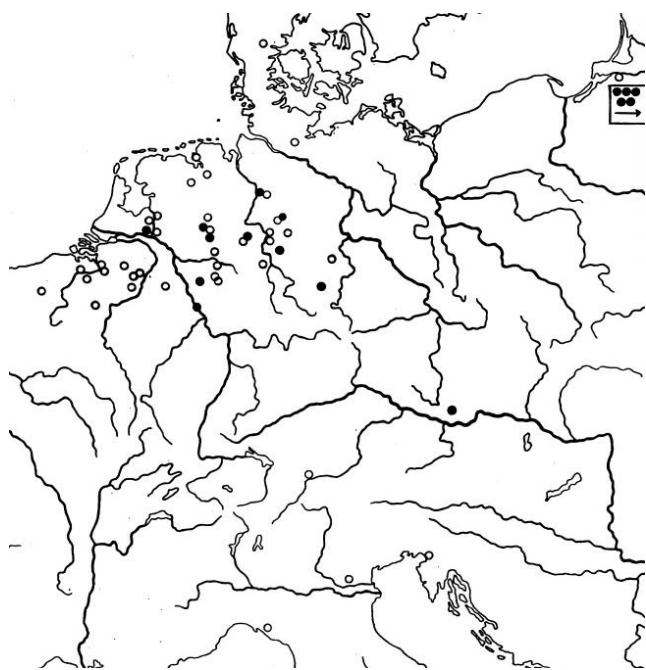


Figure 26. -st-suffixes in geographical names of Central Europe.

● Water names; ○ Place or field names (Source: Udolph 1994: 218-243 with map 26).

It is important to note that place names with an -st-suffix in their presuffixal element show a wide variety of variants.

So, -est- can be demonstrated with some certainty in *Al-est*, *Ar-est*, *Id-est*, *Lam-este*, *Tind-est*; -ast apparently appears in *Ap-l-ast*, *Har-ast*, *Land-ast* and *Bredh-asti*; Very common is -ist-: *Bil-is*, *Burd-ist*, *El-ist*, *Am-ist*, *An(d?)-ist*, *Arg-ist*, *Agr-ist*, *Far-ist-ina*, *Har-ista*, *Lev-ista*, *Ram-ista*, *Sal-ist*, *Far-ist*, *Felg-ist*.

The diversity of the suffix is completely consistent with the observations in the appellative stock. This can be easily demonstrated, especially in Germanic and Baltic. For most of the place names compiled, the Germanic conditions can be compared; this applies, for example, to the following place names, which can be explained quite convincingly with the help of Germanic word material: *Awist*, *Beverst*, *Eext*, *Ehrsten*, *Idesten*/*Itzstedt*, *Landast*, *Riemst*, *Selsten*/*Zelst*/*Zeelst*, *Thüste*, *Villigst*, *Zingst*.

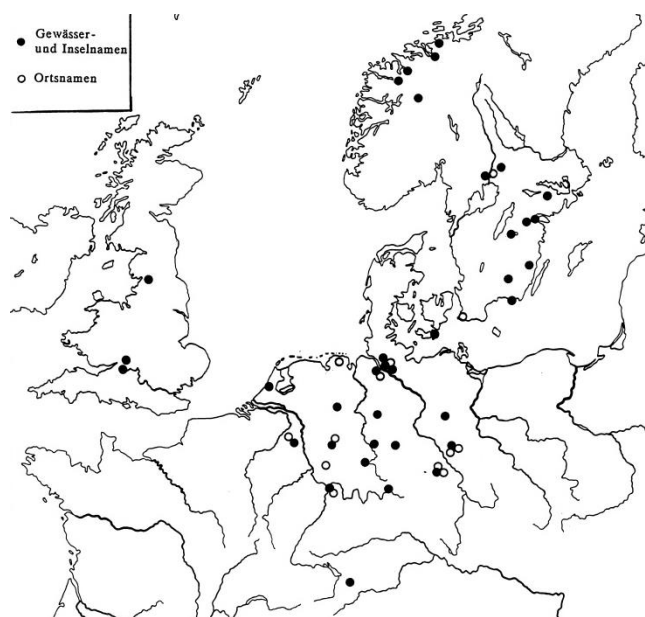
While names with the -st-suffix can also be found in non-Germanic settlement areas, things are different with the following element.

### 3. -str-suffix

This suffix can be found only in the Germanic languages, for example in the appellative area in Gothic *awistr*; Norwegian *naustr*; German *Laster* < \**lah-stra-*, *Polster* < \**bulh-stra-*, Old Norse *mostr* < \**muh-stra-*, Old English *helustr*; *heoloster*; Gothic *hulistr* 'cover', Old English *gilister*; *geoloster* 'ulcer'. And the names created with it are also limited to the (original) Germanic settlement area (figure 27). According to a list from Udolph [70] (S. 243-258), this includes, for example, *Alster*, *Elster*, *Alstern*, *Alsterân*; river name *Ballestre* in England, 940 *Ballestran*; river name *Beemster* near Alkmaar, 1083 *Bamestra*; *Beuster*, tributary of the Innerste, 1305 *Bostere*, 1308 *Botestere*; *Emster* near Brandenburg, old *Demster* or *Emster*; Norwegian river name *Imstr*; *Falster*; *Finster* near Limburg, before 893 *Veneter*; *Wene-stre*, *Uenestre*; *Fløstr*; Scandinavian island; *Gelster*; tributary of the Werra, 1246 *between Gelstram*; Norwegian river names *Jølstra*, \**Jøstra*; *Kelsterbach*, place and field name near Groß Gerau, 830-850 *De Gelsterbach*; river name *Lister* (Westerwald), 1532 *in der Lyster*; English river name *Medestre*, 940 *(on) Medestran*; Fjord name *Ørstr*; *Seester(au)*, old name of Krückau, tributary to the Elbe, 1141 *iuxta fluuium Ciestere*, with place name *Seester*, *Seesterau*; *Susteren*, Ortsname in the Netherlands, 1277 *Rususteren*, < river name *Suster*; 714 *Svestra*; *Ulster*; river name in the Rhön, 819 *Ulstra*; Swedish sea name *Vänstern*, Norwegian river names *Vinstr*, *Vinstra*, English river name *Winster*, 1170-84 (copy) *Winster*; *Wilster*, → *Medem*, *Wilster Au* (*Wilsterau*) → *Stör*; *Zester*, missing place name (*Altes Land*), 1197 *iuxta Szasteram*, also missing place name *Zesterfleth*, 1221 *Sestersvlete*.

Almost all of these names - more have since been added - can be explained from Germanic word material. But there are exceptions, e.g. *Alster*, *Elster* and *Wilster*. Here the individual language, Germanic suffix is based on a pre-Germanic basis \**el-/ol-* or \**wil-*, which speaks for a certain continuity from Indo-European to Germanic settlement in these geographical

areas.



**Figure 27.** -str-suffixes in geographical names of Central, Northern Europe and England.

● Water names; ○ Place or field names (Source: Udolph 1994: 256-272 with map 27).

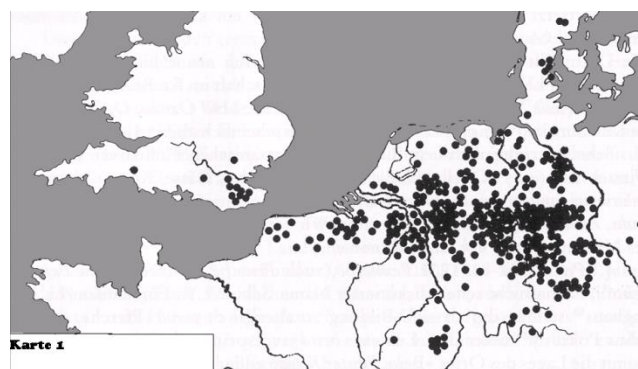
#### 4. The suffix -ithi

This suffix has already been discussed several times (Udolph 1994: 258-288; Möller 1992; Casimir 2003: 438-446). It is an ancient word formation element that has left clear traces, especially in the formation of names. It is no longer productive today and is only known to us in a few words from the older Germanic languages: Gothic *avithi* “herd of sheep”, Anglo-Saxon *gesylhbe* “yoke of oxen”, Old English *winterfylled* “october”, Old High German *winithi* “pastureland”, *juhhidi* “Team” and a few others.

While it is hardly recognizable in appellative terms, which suggests that it is relatively old, it is well known in northern and central German place names. There are around 200 names here, including quite well-known ones. Here is just a small selection: *Birgte*, 1088 *Bergithi*; *Bleckede* on the Elbe; *Bünde*, 853 (forgery) *Buginithi*; *Dingden* near Bocholt, 1163 *Tingethe*, to Old High German *thing*, *ding* “general people’s assembly”; *Döhren*, district of Hannover, around 990 *Thurnithi*; Essen, 9th century *Astnide*; *Geesthacht*, 1216 in *Hachede*; *Gimbte*, 1088 *Gimmethe*; *Grohnde*, (1237-47) in *Gronde*; *Helle* near Wiedenbrück, end of 12th century *Helthe*; *Huckarde*, district of Dortmund, 947 *Hucrithi*; *Hüsede*, 12th century *Husithi*; *Lengede*, 1151 *Lencethe*; *Mengede*, district of Dortmund, 10th century *Megnithi*, *Mengide*; *Meschede*, 913 *Meschede*, 1015-25 *Meshethi*; Sarstedt, (1046-1056) *Scersteti*, *Scerstete*, 1196 *Scardethe*; *Sehnde*, 1147 *Senethe*; *Sömmerda*, 876 *Sumiridi* item *Sumiridi*.

West Germanic settlers who translated to England from

the 5th century onwards took the element with them and, as figure 28 clearly shows, created a few place names on the island before the suffix became unproductive and disappeared from the language. These place names include: in Kent e.g. *The Brent*, *Brent Lane*, late 14th century *Bremthe*; Desert name 13th century *Bremthe*; Desert name 1286 *Bremthe*; *Brent Cottages*, 1359 *Brencche*; 1206 *La Brenithe* (for *Bremthe*?); Further *Frant*, 956, 961 (*æt*) *Fyrnþan*, 1177 *Fernet*, 1296 *Fernthe*, 1332 *Frenthe*; *Rowfant* (Sussex), 1574 *Rowfraunte*; *Feltham* (Somerset), 882 *Fælet-*, *Fylethamm*; Desert name *Helthe* in Kent, 1242-43 *Helcthe*, *Helgthe*, 1252-54 *de Holgthe*, 1254 *de Heilkthe*, 1270 *de Helgthe*; Desert name *Horsyth* in Dorset, 13th century *horside*, 1249, 1256 *Horsyth(e)*, 1256 *Horseth*, 1327, 1331, 1463 *Horsith(e)*, 1331, 1338 *Horsyth(e)*; *Tilt*, ON. in Kent and in Surrey, 1328 *la Tiltthe*; *Tiltwood* in Sussex, 1327 *ate Tiltthe*, also *Backtilt Wood*, 1254 *de Beketilthe*, 1278 *de Beketilthe* etc. as well as *Baretilt*, 1285 *Bertilth*, 1313 *de Bertilthe*, in Kent.



**Figure 28.** Place names with the suffix -ithi (Source: Udolph 1994, map 28).

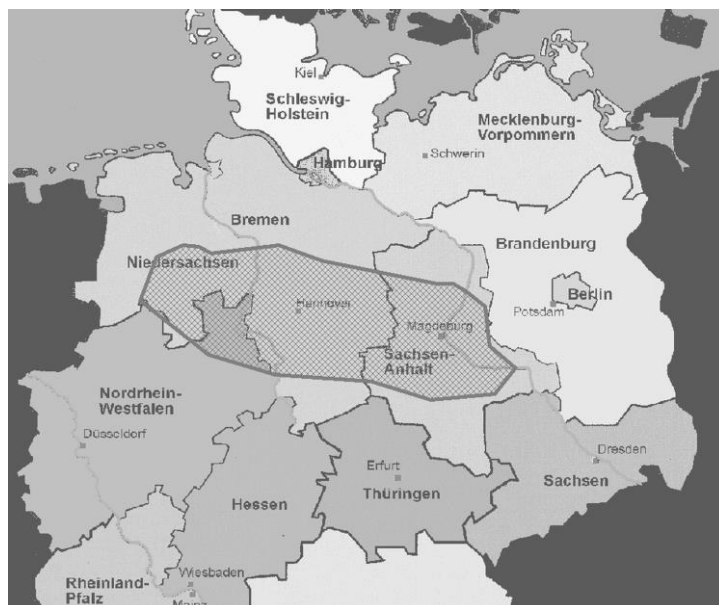
The distribution of names on the continent shows very clearly where the West Germanic settlers came from: the place names in -ithi mark the old settlement areas very precisely. They essentially correspond to the distribution of the Germanic basic words and suffixes discussed in this article, although of course each mapping has its own structure and no two are exactly the same. But a number of important consequences can be drawn for ancient Germanic settlement areas.

Among the dense network of individual language Germanic place and water names, pre-Germanic hydronyms can be recognized in large numbers in northern and central Germany, for example in the study by Kettner [29]; now also compare Greule [22]; These can also be determined through the Hydronymia Germaniae series by referring to the relevant literature.

If one now attempts to map the distribution of Old Germanic names, in my opinion the crucial point is that it must be possible to identify both the types of names that extend to the west (e.g. formations with the suffixes -ithi, -st- and with

the Appellatives *hor*, *mar*-, *Riede*, *Hude*, (*h*)*lar* etc.) as well as for the suffixes and words connecting the continental Germanic area with Scandinavia to find a common geographical basis. There is an attempt describe this [70] (S.

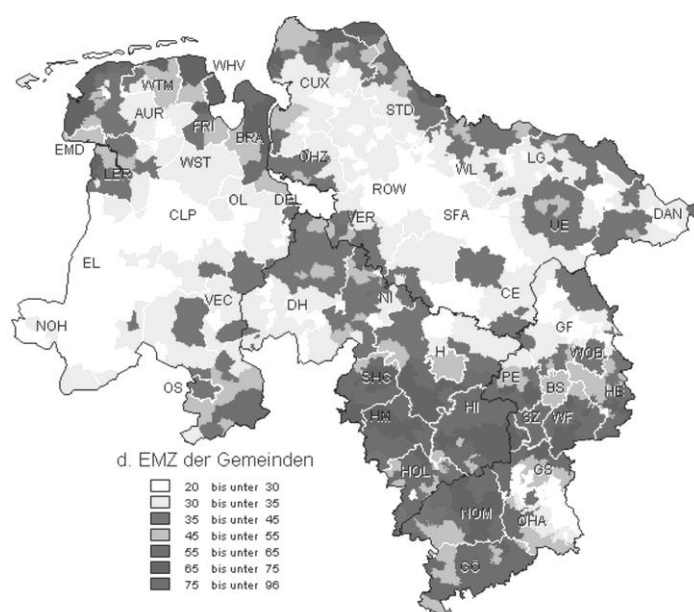
925ff.) and a mapping is included here which roughly outlines the area to be taken into account based on the geographical names as the home and expansion area of Old Germanic speakers, see figure 29.



**Figure 29.** Based on ancient Germanic place name types, it is assumed to be the oldest settlement area of ancient Germanic settlers.

It is clear that this mapping invites criticism. But I would like to emphasize again that the water and place names certainly speak for this area. And there is - as already mentioned above in the discussion about Slavic - another important argument that is used again and again by historians and agricultural scientists: what is meant is the quality of the soil, the

types of soil. Mapping, for example, of the soil types in Lower Saxony, shows an almost complete coverage of the best soils with the ancient Germanic names mentioned above and their distribution. It's a map of Lower Saxony that shows the country's yield metrics - the best soils appear in dark colors (figure 30).



**Figure 30.** Yield metrics for soils in Lower Saxony (Source: <http://www.nls.niedersachsen.de/Tabellen/Landwirtschaft/internetseite2002/hochschulen.pdf>).

This is explained in the source from which the mapping was taken: "Good soils only predominate on the coast and south of the Mittelland Canal. In the sand sea of Geest and Heide, a few 'fat eyes' swim with good, loamy soils, like a few fat eyes on a barren soup (Uelzen; Lüchow; Weser-, Leine-, Allertal; Artland; Hoya-Syke-Goldenstedt)".

The correspondence between soil quality and ancient place names is made particularly clear by the following comparative mapping, which shows both the distribution of the *-ithi*-place names in Lower Saxony and the yield metrics of the soils in Lower Saxony (figures 31, 32).



Figure 31. Distribution of *-ithi*-place names.

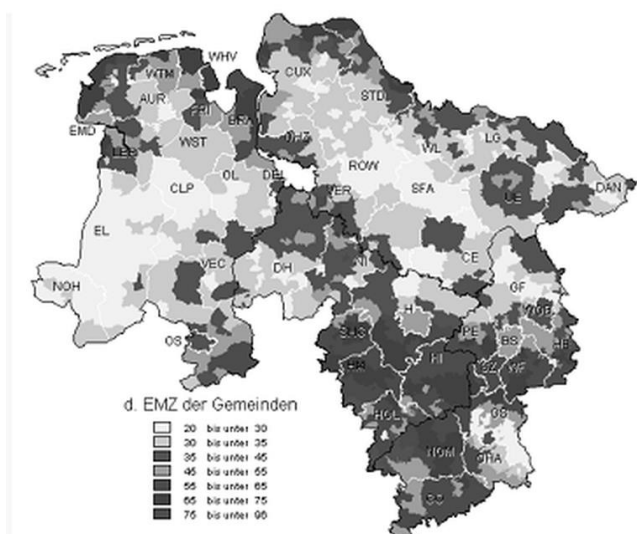


Figure 32. Distribution of soil yield metrics in Lower Saxony.

We can therefore draw the same conclusions as in the discussion about the Slavic homeland: it is clear that the distribution of the best soils in central and northern Germany corresponds to the old Germanic water and place names. It is known that the Börden (Soester Börde, Calenberger Lössbörde, Hildesheimer Börde, Magdeburger Börde) in the northern German old moraine area on the edge of the low mountain ranges have black earth soils that are among the best soils in Germany. Every farmer knows what it means when people talk about 80 or more soil points. As stated in the discussion of Slavic above, good soil generally leads to good and better harvests than poorer soil. The result is lower child mortality and higher life expectancy. The population is increasing, which in turn leads to some overpopulation, migration and spread of the language of the region's speakers. Sensational finds such as those in the Lichtenstein Cave near Osterode and the knowledge that the people who lived there 3,000 years ago still have descendants in this area today (proven by DNA analyses; taken up and treated from an onomastic perspective and supplemented by Udolph [84], show that that settlement continuity in the Harz region can be assumed with certainty.

#### c. The Celtic

From summaries of the state of Celtic place name studies it can be seen that there is agreement that island Celtic arose through relocation from the continent. The origins can therefore be found in central or western Europe. For mainland Celtic water names, the studies by Billy [8], Delamarre [16], Falileyev [18], Matasović [38] and Sims-Williams [58] are of particular value. The following map is based primarily on archaeological research, but also corresponds to a large extent to the assumptions of linguistics.

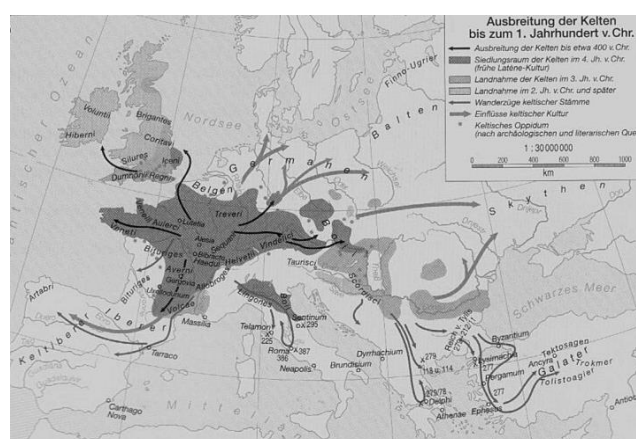


Figure 33. Migrations, land seizures and influence of the Celts up to the 1st century BC (Source: [http://www.timediver.de/Keltenwelt\\_am\\_Glaube.html](http://www.timediver.de/Keltenwelt_am_Glaube.html)). laps?

The decisive step was taken by P. Busse [11] in a small contribution to a Celtic conference, although these ideas are

only the first starting points for a larger project. He rightly emphasizes that the processing of the hydronyms is absolutely necessary, as this “has not yet been achieved with regard to the question of Celtic-speaking settlement” (Busse [11]: 89), in contrast to studies of Indo-European, Slavic and Germanic water names. In Celtic, almost no studies were undertaken in this area. In his opinion, almost all researchers avoid this topic.

Busse [11] rightly asks whether archaeological arguments can or should play a role in the question of the “Celticity” of settlers. He names S. James [28] and J. Collis [15] as the main representatives of “Celto skepticism”, “the latter of which provides serious objections to the identification of archaeological evidence and ethnic classification”. This corresponds to a large extent with modern research in Germany, with reference to Brather [10] in particular.

P. Busse [11] draws the only sensible conclusion from this: If you look for Celts from a linguistic point of view, then this can only be done with linguistic arguments. But if you do that, then - and this is absolutely essential - you not only have to include the geographical names, but you also have to give them a very high priority. Among these, the names of rivers and seas are particularly important.

In his opinion, something that has already been attempted using Slavic and Germanic has become important for the question of the oldest places of residence of Celtic speakers: since the development of an Indo-European language family from an Indo-European pre-individual dialect area was a long process - man must certainly reckon with centuries - so not only water names from a single language, such as Celtic, Baltic, Germanic, but also Indo-European pre-single language relics can be expected in this area. The development must be reflected in the hydronyms, or, in other words, an area in which there are only individual language names, for example only Celtic names, cannot be the area of the original Celtic homeland.

Busse's project, which he only offers in outline, “intends to use and bundle the results of previous studies and projects on the subject of ‘Celticity’... to find an answer to the question of the extent to which hydronymy provides a meaningful picture of early settlement history of Celtic-speaking population groups” (Busse [11]: 91f.). Following H. Krahe and completely correctly, it is primarily about the water names, which are based on words for “water, river, flow” etc. Taking into account studies from the Germanic, Baltic and Slavic areas, he develops the following key questions:

- 1) Can an area of “Celtic hydronymy” be identified that can be considered the nucleus of Celtic expansion, i.e. the original homeland?
- 2) To what extent does this nucleus coincide with the expansion of the Hallstatt or La Tène culture?

In order to find answers to this, he deals, on the one hand, with water names that are in Celtic territory but are of pre-Celtic origin, and on the other hand with Celtic names. Included are, among others, *Ainos*, *Aenus*, *Dubis fl./Doubs*,

*Douglas* and relatives, *Devy/Devon*, *Devoke Water*; Old Irish *dobur* with French *Douvre* (1128 *Dobra*), *Douvres* (approx. 380 *Dubris*), *Verdouble* (AD 79 *Verno-dubrum*) etc.; Spanish *Dobra* etc., German *Tauber*; English *Dover*; the clan around *Glanis*, *Glanum*, *Glanon*, *Glan*, *Glène*, *Glane*; *borm-/borw-/borb-* < *\*bher-* “to rise, swell, ferment, boil” in *Borbro* (*Bourbre*), *Borvo(n)* “source god”, *Formio*, in France *Bormane* (Ain), *Bourbonne* (Aube), *La Bourbre* (Isère) and many others; *brig-* < *\*bhṛgh-* to *\*bheregh-* “high, lofty”, perhaps meaning “upper reaches” in *Brigia* (*Braye* = Loir), *Brigulos* (Saône → Rhône) and many others; *-esk-/isk-* < *\*peisk-*, medium Irish *esc* “water” with *Esca/Escia/Hisca* (Isch → Saar) and others; *fruta-* < *\*s(ʰ)rutu-*, cf. Kymrian *ffF-wd*, Irish *sruth* “fall stream”, in *Frudis*, river in Belgium and others.

In the conclusion, the results are summarized using a distribution map: “As a first preliminary result, taking into account the map material, the following can be stated: Celtic hydronymy is distributed over an area that is located on the northern edge of the Alps along the Danube, the Upper and the middle reaches of the Rhine and the Rhône, including the tributaries. The starting area of the Hallstatt culture is not the same as this area, although the most important West Hallstatt and early La Tène finds can be found in this area” [11] (S. 97). It is only mentioned here in passing that the Polish Indo-Europeanist J. Rozwadowski (partly printed in Rozwadowski [46]) in his research, which dates back to the first years of the 20th century. Going back, he found striking similarities between the names of water bodies in the Baltic and the Rhône region, such as *Visentia*, *Saane*, *Brenne*, *Divonne*, *Isara*, *Drome*, *Ivarus* and others.

This has now been consolidated even further. Important parallels in names have been identified in France (Schmid [54]) and in the Moselle area [53], and clear similarities between Old European water names in Poland and the Baltic States and the British Isles, northern and southern France have been shown Udolph [70] (S. 332ff.) that almost the entire Celtic settlement area (less certain: the Iberian Peninsula) contains a substrate of pre-individual Indo-European water names.

If one tries to weigh up the previous investigations into the names of waters in Europe and P. Busse's attempt at Celtic, then in my opinion the following common points can be identified:

1. The names of water bodies are the oldest evidence of human language in Europe. Their investigation is essential for questions of prehistory and early history.
2. In the area of the former Celtic settlement on the mainland (especially in northern Italy, France and parts of Switzerland) there is a lack of comprehensive studies of hydronymy.
3. Unfortunately, archaeological results can only be used to a limited extent to answer the question of the ethnic structure of early Europe [Brather 2004].
4. Since the water names are essentially derived from so-

called “water words”, a comprehensive study of the geographical terminology of all Celtic languages is an urgent desideratum (this also applies to the area of Germanic languages, while it is exemplary in Slavic, even studies limited to the water names).

P. Busse has to enter in a mapping the names of waters that, in his opinion, are important for determining the oldest settlement areas of Celtic tribes.

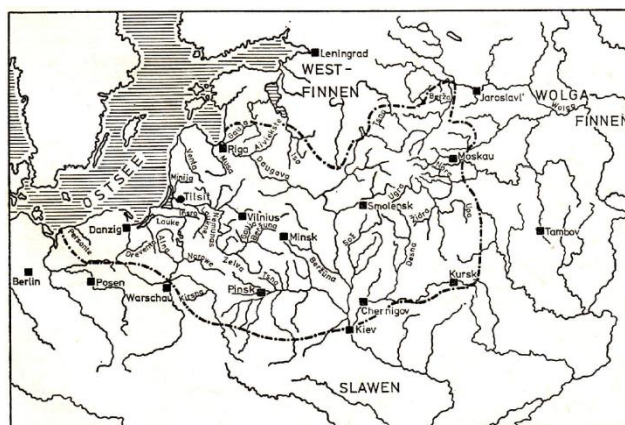


**Figure 34.** Mapping Old European and Celtic Names (Source: Busse [11], S. 97).

Based on the investigation by P. Busse and based on corresponding research in the field of Germanic and Slavic, one can say: There is a lot to be said for the fact that the development of Celtic took place where a certain “thickening”. increased concentration of old European water names had already been seen. Of crucial importance is the existence of parallels in the Baltics and the neighboring regions, which J. Rozwadowski 1948 [46] already pointed out. A word that already played a role in questions about the homeland of the Germanic tribes also applies to the question of the ancient Celtic residences: *Ex oriente lux* [Cf. *Udolph*, *Ex oriente lux*, 2-mal]. Taking this into account, there is already a lot to be said for the area west of the Alps - and one can essentially follow P. Busse. Research in the countries formerly populated by Celts would do well to focus more intensively on the names of water bodies than before.

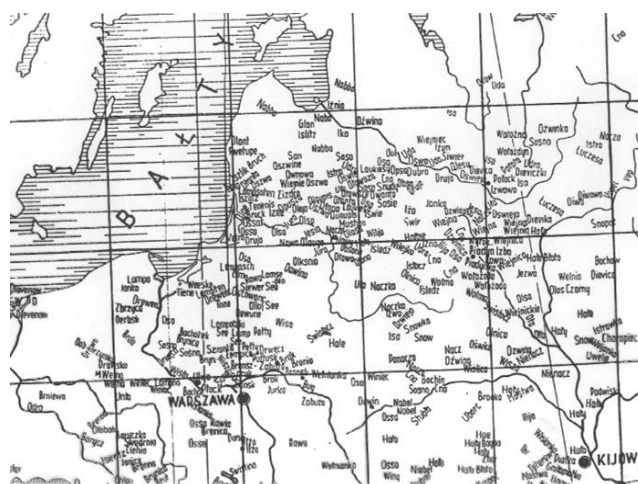
#### *d. The Baltic from an onomastic point of view names*

Linguists and name researchers repeatedly emphasize the continuity in the settlement history of the Baltic. Larger migration movements can hardly be recognized, but there is a process that shows a considerable reduction in the size of the former Baltic settlement area (W. P. Schmid offers a map based on the publications of M. Gimbutas, which needs to be corrected in detail (figure 35).



**Figure 35.** Distribution of Baltic water names (Source: Schmid 1976: 15 after M. Gimbutas, *The Balts*, London 1963, S. 30f.).

Essentially, they are Slavic tribes that assimilated Baltic from the east, south and southwest, clearly visible in parts of northwestern Russia, Belarus and northeastern Poland. From a hydronymic point of view, a distribution map of water body names is interesting, which, in the opinion of J. Rozwadowski [46], can be described as “Slavic” (Map 36). However, these are by no means Slavic, but rather pre-individual, Indo-European water names. This is made clear by the headings of individual sections of his studies, such as “*dreu-* (Drwęca, Drawa...)”, “*Isa*”, “*Isana*”, “*Isara*”, “*Oła i jej grupa: pierwiastek el-*”, which are partly are almost identical to the much later investigations by H. Krahe and largely agree with Krahe's investigations and results. In Western Europe they remained completely unnoticed.



**Figure 36.** “Slavic water names” treated 1948 bei J. Rozwadowski [46].

A map from a recent publication (figure 37) shows something similar, as it shows a clear increase in pre-Slavic water names in the territories bordering the former Baltic settlement area in northeastern Poland, which are undoubtedly in

the adjacent Baltic settlement areas continues.

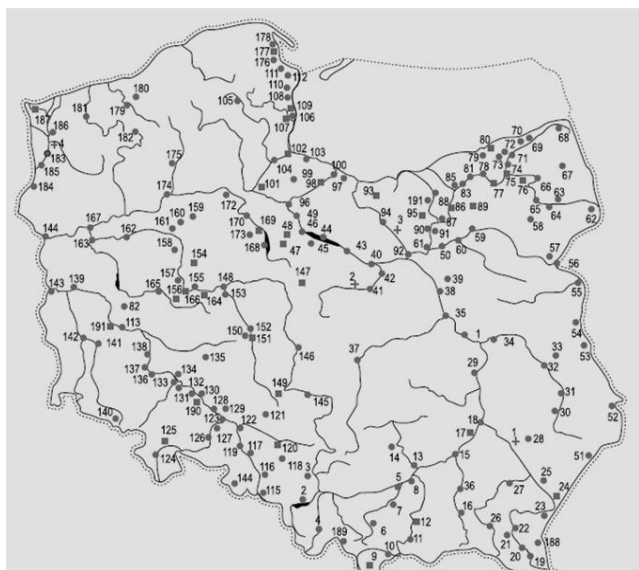


Figure 37. Oldest water names in Poland according to Babik 2001.

In the meantime, it has also become clear that the water names considered Slavic by J. Rozwadowski [46] have to be interpreted differently: a small part of them belongs to the Baltic substratum in Russia, Belarus, northern Ukraine and northern post-Poland, but a much larger part belongs to it the inventory of Old European hydronymy, which has been called this since H. Krahe [31, 32], a network of water names that is of pre-individual, Indo-European origin [29, 54, 70].



Figure 38. Baltic center in hydronymy (Source: Schmid 1994: 184f.).

And another important new insight was gained: within the Old European, pre-individual, Indo-European water names in Europe, Baltic has a special position, which W. P. Schmid [54] (S. 175-192, 226-247) has worked out. Hydronymy in the former and current Baltic settlement area is character-

ized, on the one hand, by a large density of pre-individual language names, on the other hand, a stability and continuity in the formation of water names from the earliest Indo-European period to the individual language Baltic period can be seen and, finally, there is within the Old European Hydronymy only in the Baltics water names that have equivalents in many European regions. Examples include *Atesys*, *Ates*, river names in Lithuania: *Etsch/Adige* (recorded in antiquity as *Atesis*, *Athesis*); *Eisa*: *Aisë*; *Limena*: *Limenè* in Lithuania, *Lac Léman*, etc., mapping see figure 38.

I was able to find something similar when examining the pre-Slavic names in Poland Udolph [69] (Summary: 331ff.). A mapping is based on this study, specifically on the compilations of name correspondences between Poland and various regions in Europe (e.g. British Isles, Western Europe, Northern Italy, etc., pp. 332-338), which is presented here (figure 39).



Figure 39. Name correspondences between names of water bodies in Poland and European parallels (The material is in Udolph 1990: 332-338).

None of these are coincidences. As both older and more recent studies have made clear, the Baltic treasure trove of names shows correspondences in a ring of regions that extends from the British Isles, France, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, the Balkans to Eastern Europe. Recently, these similarities have been increasingly identified, especially with Germanic, but there are also similarities between several Indo-European languages, especially between Baltic, Germanic and Slavic.

#### e. Overarching similarities in the names of two or more individual languages

As has become increasingly clear in recent years, the three Indo-European language groups Baltic, Germanic and Slavic are closely linked to one another in their names. On the one hand, these are Old European-Indo-European relics that stand out within Old European hydronymy through special features (morphology, vocabulary), and on the other hand, there are similarities between two of the three language branches. The material is presented in brief below and refer in particular to the literature mentioned in the individual

sections.

### 1. Slavic-Germanic

I tried to outline the state of research in this area a few years ago [81]. From a linguistic point of view, similarities can also be demonstrated in the names; M. Vasmer has presented the first convincing attempts. Two periods can be distinguished in the relationship between Germanic and Slavic languages: 1.) In a more recent phase, since around the 2nd century AD, there has been more intensive contact, primarily due to the expansion of Germanic tribes were triggered in Eastern Central Europe. 2.) The phase of Germanic expansion was replaced around the 5th century by Slavic settlement movements, which took possession of an area originally populated by Germanic tribes.

Only in recent years has research on place names in the old Germanic settlement area identified traces of much older contact, dating back to the time when the Germanic and Slavic languages developed from an Indo-European dialect area. It's about the striking phenomenon that obviously Germanic names can only be etymologized with the help of Slavic words (the following examples are in Casemir 2003 [13], among others); these include *Empelde* near Hannover, old *Amplithi*, cf. Slavic \**qbl-* in Polabian *wūmbal* "fountain", Bulgarian *vumbel*, *vubel*, *vubel'*, *vōbel*, *ubel* "well or spring in a valley" etc.; *Hude* "wood storage area, stacking area on a water connection, ferry station, harbor", documented in numerous place names in northern Germany, probably North Sea German. \**hūth-* and older \**hunþ-* (for details and the geographical names derived from them, see above), the Slavic word \**kq̃tъ* in Russian *kut* "end of a river arm that extends deep into the country" etc.; *Ilfeld*, *Ilten*, *Ilde*, *Ilse* go back to \**Il-feld*, \**Il-tun*, \**Il-ithi*, \**Il-is-ithi*; the salty soil near Ilten and Ilse is striking. A German interpretation is missing. An informal Slavic word for "clay, mud" is ideal, e.g. Belarusian *il* "thin dirt of organic origin in water, on the bottom of a waterhole, marshy, gray or white-colored land," related to ancient Greek. *kēyō* "mud, feces".

With this toponymic material one comes across an early period of linguistic contact, which proves that Germanic must have developed from an Indo-European dialect continuum in relative proximity not only to the Baltic, but also to the Slavic language area.

These observations also force us to consider the development of Germanic in the relationships between Germanic and Slavic (and Baltic) older and earlier relationships can be seen than with Celtic. This fact is still often ignored today. From an onomastic point of view there are no similarities between Germanic and Celtic.

### 2. Slavic-Baltic

The close relationships between Slavic and Baltic have been the subject of heated and controversial debates for more than a century (one of the last summaries of the discussions is provided by Dini [17]). However, little attention has been paid to the clear fact that in the area of Hydronymy and toponymy - unlike in the vocabulary - there were hardly any

old similarities or contacts. As a clear center of Old European hydronymy, Baltic is integrated into the network of Indo-European water names in a completely different way than Slavic; the conditions are hardly comparable from an onomastic point of view. Baltic has much closer ancient connections to Germanic than to Slavic.

### 3. Baltic-Germanic

The realization that there must have been particularly close relationships between these two branches of language is by no means new. As early as 1863, E. Förstemann [19] (S. 258, 331): "If we want to reconstruct our ancient linguistic and ethnic history, no language area is of greater importance to us than that of the so-called Baltic languages, which... are particularly close to Germanic stand" ... "...because Lithuanian is in fact the closest genealogical relative of Germanic among all languages." A summary evaluation including the research history can be found in Udolph (74; 81), and reference should also be made to more recent studies: Casemir/Udolph [14]; Schmid [53] (S. 334-357); Udolph [74, 87].

Of particular importance are the names of places and bodies of water in northern and central Germany, which cannot be explained using the Germanic vocabulary but can only be solved with the help of Baltic. It is only briefly mentioned here *Ihme*, the name of the water in Hannover, after 1124 in *occidentali ripa Himene fluminis*, 1351 *supra aquam dictam Ymene* etc., < \**Eimena*, cf. Baltic river names *Eimūnis*, *Ejmenis* (variants *Eymenis*, *Eimenys*) and Lithuanian *eimenà*, *-ōs*, *eīmenas* "the flow, the stream".

One of the most important consequences of these striking equations is that Germanic must have developed in relative proximity to Baltic (W. P. Schmid).

### 4. Baltic-Slavic-Germanic

The closer relationship of Baltic, Slavic and Germanic within the Indo-European languages has been discussed for decades (most recently: P. U. Dini [17]). The following comments are limited to the world of names and briefly to observations and findings that have already been discussed in more detail several times elsewhere (Udolph [81, 87]).

There are appellatives that can only be detected in the three language groups, sometimes only in one or two of these language groups. But names derived from them can also be found outside the corresponding language area and mark - better than appellatives - the area in Europe in which Baltic, Slavic and Germanic emerged from an Indo-European dialect area. The most compelling examples, in my opinion, are the following.

*Balge* and related things: Low German *balge*, *balje* "low, swampy place, watercourse", *balge* "priel, small ditch, trickle in the mud flats" etc., as a name attested, among other things, in *Balg*, 1288 *du dru Balge*; 1166 *Balga*; *Balge*, around 1080 *Balga*, etc., sometimes also derived from it with suffixes: 1375 *Balghede* < \**Balg-ithi*. Traces can also be found in the Netherlands, Holland and England. Related to this are Eastern European place and water names such as *Bloga*, tributary of Pilica, with place-names *Blogie Stare*,

*Szlacheckie*; *Blogie*, swamp in the former Radom district; Slovakian river name *Blh*, Hungarian *Balog*, 1244/1410 *Balogh* etc.; *Balge*, place-name and name of a part of the Zalew Wiśłany (Germanic name?); *Balga*, river name in Latvia, there also place name *Piebalga*; *Bologoe*, place and lake name in northwest Russia, also in the Silesian water name *Osobloga/Osoblaha/Hotzenplotz*.

Furthermore *\*dhelbh-* in Polish *dlubać* “to cave, to chisel”, Czech *dlub* “deepening”, Old High German *bi-telban* “buried”, Old English *(ge)delf* “quarry”, Dutch *delf*, *dilf* “ravine, ditch, canal”, Lithuanian *délba*, *dálba* “crowbar” is attested in numerous names in Northern and Central Europe, including in *Delf*, 1328 *in loco Delf nominato*; 1238 *locum qui Delue dicitur*; *Delfen*; *Delft*, *Delftheide*; *Delvenau*, beginning 9th century *Delbende* (place name); *Thulba* (shrinking stage), 9th century *Tulba(m)*, *Dulba*; *Delft*, 1083 *Delf*, in Eastern Europe: *Delbenen*, *Di•bas*, *Di•bi*, *Di•bene pl.*, *Dlubnia*, *Dlubina*, *Dhubala*, *\*Dolobsk-* and others.

The distribution map of the names derived from *\*dhelbh-* (figure 40) corresponds in the distribution of names to that of other Baltic-Slavic-Germanic parallels.



Figure 40. Place and water names based on *\*dhelbh-*.

Thus, the names and their distribution can be used to prove that the pre-Germanic but Indo-European substrate recognizable in the hydronymy is closely linked to the Baltic water name landscape, a phenomenon that could also be observed in the case of Slavic. If one dares to date it: the first sound shift and other processes that created the foundations for Germanic from an Indo-European dialect can be dated to around 500 BC. be dated. Names found in the center of Germania that have close connections with Slavic and especially with Baltic must be put aside. Since these in turn have superimposed Old European, pre-individual language water names, continuity can be assumed up to at least 1,000 BC can be assumed.

It is a stroke of luck for science that these hypothetical approaches can apparently be confirmed. The finds in the Lichtenstein Cave near Osterode (west of the Harz), the DNA

analyzes on the 3,000-year-old skeletons and on current residents of the area have shown that there has been continuity of settlement since 1,000 BC. BC can be assumed. By examining the family and geographical names, especially the river names Sieber, Oder, Rhume and Söse, it was made probable (Udolph [84]) that this assumption can also be confirmed from an onomastic point of view. From a genetic and onomastic point of view, the western Harz edge can therefore be considered part of the Germanic old settlement area.

### 3. Old European Hydronymy and the Homeland of the Indo-Europeans

The research carried out primarily by H. Krahe on the names of rivers and seas in Europe and their classification into the previous considerations on the prehistory of the Indo-Germanic languages was carried out by W. P. Schmid has been subjected to strict criticism and has made a decisive contribution to stricter criteria when it comes to the question of what a water name must be like so that it can be given the title “Old European”. Since then, the following conditions apply:

- 1) It is a water body name.
- 2) The name cannot be explained from the language spoken on the shore today.
- 3) It contains a lexeme with an Indo-European root structure and the meaning “water, flow, etc.”
- 4) It must be explained from the entire Indo-European vocabulary and its morphology, mostly formed with ancient suffixes (adaptations to individual language structural and word elements are to be expected).
- 5) It is referred to as “old European” if it has at least one ancient root and structurally related name as an equivalent in Europe.
- 6) The names show the structure of Indo-European nouns, adjectives and participles, i.e. they are always derived from the root, not from a word.
- 7) Old European hydronymy presupposes the unity of all Indo-European languages (this is proven, among other things, by Eastern Indo-European appellatives in European languages (this is proven, among other things, by Eastern Indo-European appellatives in European river names).

From these considerations it follows that there can be no doubt about a layer or a network of pre-individual, Indo-European water names in Europe. The criticism that flares up again and again is mostly sparked by individual names, but does not damage the facts as such in any way. Anyone who wants to attack or even reject the concept of Old European Hydronymy (the numerous articles published recently by H. Bichlmeier with their strong criticism does not change the principles mentioned above) must, however, be convinced on one point: they have to know the material that forms the basis for the considerations of H. Krahe, W. P. Schmid and

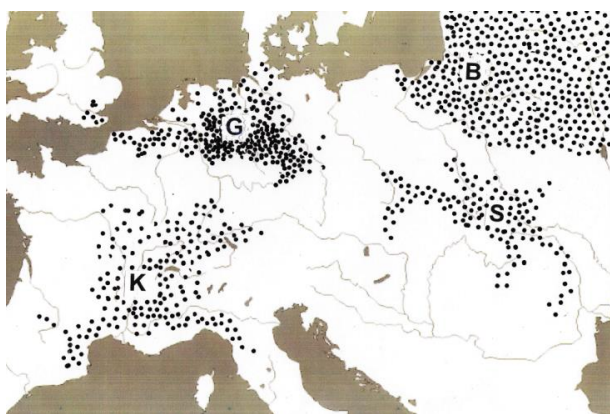
from me. This is not the case with any of the critics.

This applies to almost all arguments put forward so far and also to some newer ones, which will briefly mentioned here.

- 1) Recently, Celtic has begun to imperceptibly gain ground again when assigning a body of water name in Germany, for example in the comprehensive book on the name of bodies of water in Central Europe by A. Greule [22]. In view of the fact that Eastern European comparative material was and is used to a limited extent, caution is required when assigning it to Celtic.
- 2) Pre-Indo-European cannot be found in many areas. This also applies to Th. Vennemann's attempts to prove Basque or Vasconian as a pre-Indo-European stratum (the most recent articles in Udolph 2013 [89]).
- 3) From a completely different point of view, Z. Babik (2001) [5] votes against Old European things in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland. He believes that Old European hydronymy is a uniform layer that encompasses the whole of Europe, with which the Polish water names do not fit. There are crucial phonetic, morphological and flexiv differences. In Poland the only thing that can be said about the old water names is that they are "old and European" (*stare i europejskie*). A view is presented here that representatives of the Old European thesis have long since overcome: it is known that there are different suffixes, different ablaut levels and morphological peculiarities can be observed in hydronymy, and that there is no "uniformity" in the sense of a monolithic block.

In order to find the homeland of the Indo-European people, it is imperative to first determine the oldest settlement areas of the individual Indo-European language families. It is my clear opinion that the search for ancient seats of Indo-European tribes, as with the (re)construction of Indo-European foundations, should start from the individual languages.

I dare to summarize the previous statements on the homelands of the Germanic, Slavic, Baltic and Celtic tribes in one mapping (Map 41).



**Figure 41.** Oldest settlement areas (Slavic, Germanic, Celtic, Baltic) according to the names.

What can you say about the period in which the individual Indo-European language groups developed from an Indo-European precursor?

Slavic developed from around 500 BC. Developed on the northern slope of the Carpathians. Older water names indicate closer connections with Germanic and Baltic, and sometimes just Baltic. These names must therefore be dated to an earlier period, around 1,000 – 500 BC.

Based on the names, Germanic can be assigned to an area north, east and also to a small extent south of the Harz. Due to the first sound shift and other processes, its emergence from an Indo-European dialect area can be attributed to around 500 BC. be dated. Pre-Germanic names must be older and date back to around 1,000 - 500 BC. to set.

The development of Celtic from an Indo-European dialect probably took place in the western Alpine region; the first approaches - I know how controversial these dating suggestions are - can be dated around 1,000 BC. be accepted.

The Baltic has undergone the smallest geographical shifts, although the original settlement area shrank considerably due to Slavic expansion. However, by comparing the names of water bodies throughout Europe, it can be assumed that the pre-Baltic relics at least to 500 - 1,000 BC. have to go back.

Putting these results together, you come to – I think this is no surprise – an Indo-European-influenced layer of water names that dates back to around 1,000 BC. BC can be proven in Central Europe and which with some certainty shaped the east of France, central and northern Germany and eastern Central Europe. But it seems possible to go back a step further.

We know names in Europe that can only be explained with the help of East Indo-European appellatives (Indian, Iranian, Tocharian) and which prove that Old European hydronymy does not belong to any West Indo-European "intermediate stage" (represented throughout his life by H. Krahe and often still is understood that way today). W. P. Schmid [54] (S. 129ff.) had recognized this and based on parallels such as *sindhu*/\**sindhnā* - *Sinn*, *Shin*, *Shannon*; *indu* - *Indura*, *Indus* (Baltic); *vār(i)*-, *vār*-, *vairi* - *Vara*, *Vaire*, *Verma*, *Warme*, *Warmenau*, *Wörnitz* < \**Varantia* and others; *aḍu* - *Adda*, *Oder*, *Attersee*, -*gau*; *dānu* - *Don*, *Danube* and others rightly concluded: "The uniform common language presupposed by Old European hydronymy is nothing other than the Indo-European itself" (Schmid [54] (S. 129). Since the underlying appellatives are known, among other things, from Old Indian and Old Iranian, but these are missing from European languages, it must be assumed that the vocabulary from which the European water names were created was still known to the creators of the Indo-European names. This brings us with certainty to the 2nd century BC for some of these names. The uncertainty factor lies in not knowing when the once living words and roots from the Indo-European dialects of the time ceased to be productive. Recall again that this relationship between East Indo-European words and European names has its parallels in North Germanic appella-

tives in continental Germanic names and in South Slavic words found in names north of the Carpathians.

All in all, it can be concluded that large parts of Western, Central and Eastern Europe are covered by a network of Indo-European water names, in which the non-European and southern European Indo-European languages also participate through the appellative equivalents. One should not overlook the fact that the existence of a water name that dates back to Indo-European times presupposes continuous settlement on the banks of the water. Disruptions in settlement lead to loss of names and disruptions, as can be observed in the south of Russia and in the southeast of Ukraine, where even the largest rivers in this area such as the *Dnieper*, *Dniestr*, *Southern Bug*, *Don* and *Volga* changed their names - especially in the lower reaches, that is in the area of the steppe and semi-steppe. The question of the edges of Old European hydronymy remains open, but an assessment of the Indo-European water names of Europe cannot be made from their periphery (considerations by Untermann 2009 [94] go in this direction). The periphery can only be determined when the conditions in the center are transparent.

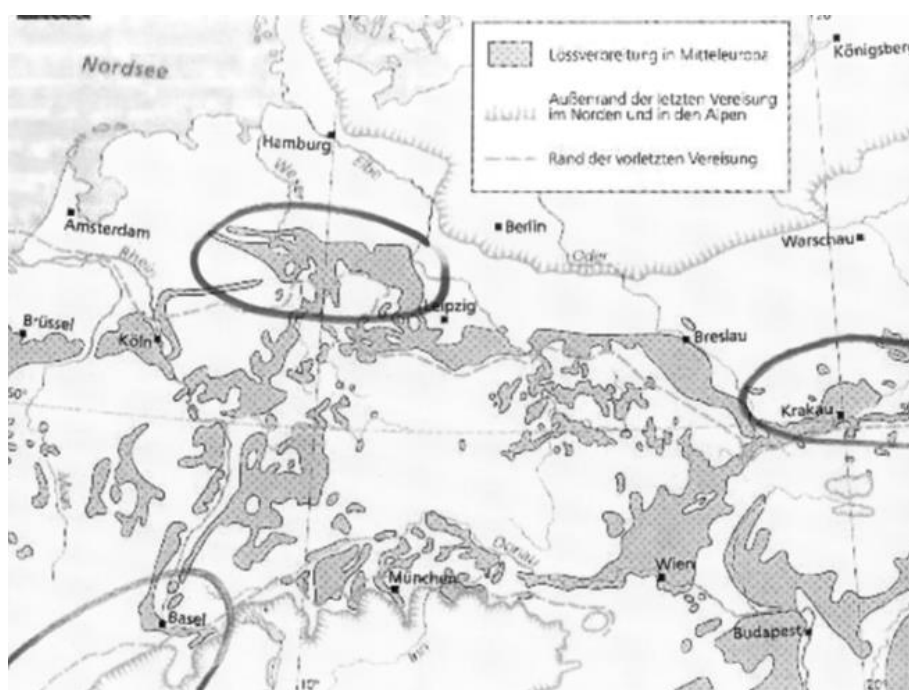
When it comes to the question of ancient settlement areas of Indo-European tribes, the main result is that this can only be searched within the distribution area of Old European hydronymy. From the individual language period, which can better assessed hydronymically and toponymically, we know of no example of an Indo-European language group developing without this process leaving traces in the naming landscape. For theses that assume an Indo-European homeland in southern Russia and Ukraine (Gimbutas; Kurgan culture) or in the Caucasus, this means that traces of a migration of the

Indo-European core people from there to Europe or Asia Minor leave traces in the geographical nomenclature should have. As everyone knows, that is not the case. Rather, we should once again point out the reliable evidence of Eastern Indo-European appellatives and roots in the water names of Europe: clear evidence that the roots of the Indo-European tribes native to Europe and Asia can be found in Europe. Once again: the nomenclature of Europe suggests that the spread of Indo-European tribes originated from this continent.

In order to make these theses obtained from geographical names more certain and to confirm the presumed homeland of Germanic, Celtic and Slavic, from another direction, a discipline is available that has not yet been used in the entire discussion about the Indo-European homeland played the least role: the soil research.

I had already used the knowledge of soil science above in the comparison between the Germanic -ithi names and the yield metrics of Lower Saxony (figures 29-32). A distribution map of loess soils in Asia and Europe published ten years ago (Haase et al. 2007 [26]), which be mentioned above when discussing the homeland of Slavic tribes, shows that there is a broad belt of loess soils from China all the way to France Asia and Europe moves. How is this spread in Europe, especially in the area where I assume the ancient residences of Germanic, Slavic and Celtic tribes?

An older map of the loess areas in Europe is helpful for this, but the result corresponds to the newer one from 2007. In this are recorded there the, in my opinion, oldest residences of the Germanic, Celtic and Slavic speakers (figure 42).



**Figure 42.** Loess distribution in Central Europe (Source: <http://www.geographie.uni-stuttgart.de/seminare/lehrpfad/Pleistozen/Loessseite.htm>. - gaps?)

The loess areas of the Leipzig lowlands, the Börde of Magdeburg, Hildesheim and Soest as well as the so-called Golden Aue south of the Harz are clearly visible. It is precisely the area that emerged as the center of continuity for Germanic naming in a detailed study of Old Germanic place and water names (Udolph 1994 [70]). The finds in the Lichtenstein Cave correspond to this.

The map also shows something similar for the border area of Poland and Ukraine. Here too, on the northern slope of the Carpathians, loess and the oldest Slavic settlement areas coincide in a striking way. Soil research therefore supports the onomastic results.

The findings are less clear in the western Alpine region, where one can assume an ancient Celtic settlement landscapes, but in the presumed home of Slavic and Germanic tribes the cover with good soil is evident.

This also leads to thoughts on the question of how the huge expansions - in this chronological order - of Celts, Germanic peoples and Slavs can actually be explained and understood. Since you can associate the oldest geographical names with good and best soils, there is much to support the following thesis: good soils lead to better harvests for the people who lived 2,000-3,000 years ago and were dependent on agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing and hunting, minimizing their general mortality and child mortality and lead to a population overpressure that can only be reduced by a gradual expansion of settlement activity. Due to the expanding population that speaks a certain language, e.g. Proto-Slavic, Proto-Germanic, Proto-Celtic or corresponding dialects of the same, this language is transferred to neighboring areas with their inhabitants due to the larger population. Corresponding processes are easy to understand by comparing them with known spreads and overlays of languages onto others; one thinks of the German eastern settlement with the overlay of West Slavic tribes and their languages, the slavization of Finno-Ugric tribes in Russia and the settlement of America by European settlers with their languages.

From here the importance of onomastic studies for the question of the oldest settlement areas is reemphasized and I believe that this branch of linguistics should receive significantly more attention than has been done so far.

## 4. Conclusion

- (1) There are names of waters that can be dated to the time when the Indo-Germanic languages emerged and developed. They are in Europe.
- (2) The decisive processes of the development and spread of the Indo-European languages essentially took place in the area of Old European hydronymy. This is supported, among other things, by Eastern Indo-European appellatives in European water names. There are corresponding parallels in Slavic and Germanic.
- (3) There is no evidence of a pre-Indo-European layer in

the names of Central Europe. This is surprising, as people who did not speak any Indo-European language have certainly already settled there. I don't dare judge whether this is related to the sedentary nature of Indo-European tribes, in contrast to the nomadic or semi-nomadic nature of the earlier population.

- (4) The settlements of Indo-European tribes in the last millennia before Christ are associated with good and best soils. This coincides - and this is of considerable importance - with the spread of the old names.
- (5) The reconstruction of Indo-European basic forms is based on the knowledge of the known individual Indo-European languages. Indo-European water names are also attested in the "gaps" between the individual Indo-European languages. It is therefore to be expected that there are differences between the basic forms of the names and the basic forms of the Indo-European reconstruction.
- (6) The Old European water names have a clear center in the Baltic and in the Baltic languages. There is a lot to be said for seeing it not only as a center of continuity (W. P. Schmid), but also as a center of radiation.
- (7) No original homeland lies outside the later settlement area, neither Germans nor Celts, Slavs or Balts. Why should this be the case in the case of an Indo-European original homeland?
- (8) The idea that the Indo-European languages had their original homeland in southern Russia, Asia Minor or the Caucasus must be firmly rejected from an onomastic perspective. Home can only be sought within Old European Hydronymy. This is clearly limited to Europe. Taken together, everything speaks in favor of the Baltics as the homeland and starting point for Indo-European expansion.

## Author Contributions

Jürgen Udolph is the sole author. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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